THE TIMES

50P

No. 65,994 SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13 1997 http://www.the-times.co.uk

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Teachers' and nurses' hopes dashed

Labour clamps pay with new freeze

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND IAN MURRAY

NURSES and doctors are due for disappointment next week when the Cabinet imposes its own freeze on the £80 billion public sector pay bill.

Yesterday, nurses underlined their hopes of 20 per cent pay rises next year and doctors' leaders prepared to announce a claim for double-digit increases.

However, amid signs of increasing unrest over salary levels among five million state employees, ministers indicated that they would not be moved by the clamour for a relaxation of the strict pay curbs first imposed by the Tories. Next week Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, will tell chairmen of review bodies covering 1.3 million public sector workers that the freeze on the overall pay bill will remain in place for another year.

Mr Darling's uncompromising message, agreed with Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, who is abroad, means that increases next spring will be held to about 3 per cent for most types of staff.

Mr Darling will stick to the Conservatives' insistence that public sector pay increases must be funded out of efficiency gains or other savings. His approach will mean that for the fifth year in succession groups such as doctors, teachers and nurses will find that overall pay bills are held flat.

Senior Treasury officials said yesterday that with the Government committed for another year to meeting tough spending limits inherited from the Tories, there was little room for manoeuvre over pay. They said that in the Treasury's economic evidence to review body chiefs, last year's freeze on the overall pay bill would be reimposed.

They hinted at some leeway, however, pointing out that ministers took "fairness" over pay as their watchword and that they were busy reviewing departmental budgets to see if extra cash could be released by juggling with resources. Policy changes, such as scrapping the assisted places scheme, were also releasing money.

One aide said: "The Government is committed to the existing public spending figures, so it is committed to keeping total public spending within existing plans and keeping departmental budgets within those plans. The Chancellor has added extra money for health and education next year, but ministers have made clear that they want that to go to patient care and schools, and not to pay."

As the Treasury sought to hold the line on pay, leaders of some of the most influential professional groups made clear that they were becoming exasperated by their continuing failure to do more than keep pace with inflation.

The British Medical Association is expected to renew claims on Tuesday that its 115,000 doctors need rises of more than 50 per cent to restore the place in the earnings pecking order that they enjoyed in 1980.

The General Secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters / Union of Women Teachers, Nigel de Gruchy, said that an explosion of anger was in the offing. The National Union of Teachers, the biggest of the teaching unions, is pressing for a "substantial increase".

Yesterday, nurses' leaders demanded an inflation-busting rise, as much as 20 per cent, and said that they were not prepared to see their members' wages held back for yet another year.

Their review body evidence showed that newly registered nurses would need at least 20 per cent more to bring them into line with the starting salary of a police constable, and 13 per cent to be comparable with the pay of a qualifed social worker.

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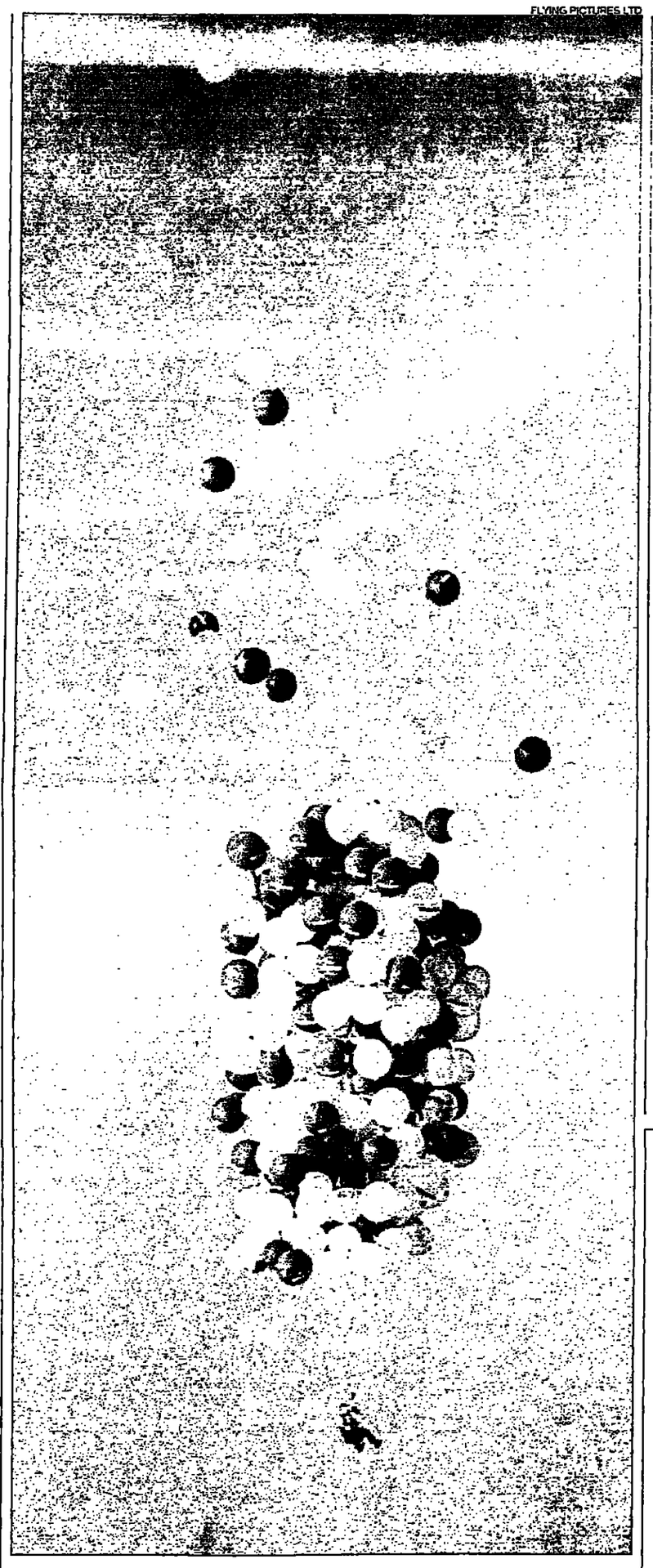

At 10,000ft above Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, Ian Ashpole, aged 42, is dwarfed by the more than 400 helium-filled toy balloons he used to break the world altitude record for this form of flight. He already holds the record for the world's highest trapeze act, highest tightrope act, highest abseil and highest bungee jump. He was attached by a harness to the balloons, each 2ft in diameter, and was lifted to the target altitude by hot-air balloon. He then cut himself free, first from the hot-air balloon and then one by one from the toys, finally freefalling and parachuting to earth. After his daredevil stunt he said: "It was a fantastic sensation, floating in complete silence beneath all those balloons. The feeling of peacefulness and calm was unbelievable. I love being up in the air — I think it's safer than being on the ground! When the time came to release myself from the balloons I had to cut the cord attached to each. As more of them were released, I fell more and more quickly. By the time I had cut the last few I was free-falling at about 90 miles an hour."

Blair seeks to swing Welsh votes after Scots victory

BY NICHOLAS WATT, VALERIE ELLIOTT AND SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A TRIUMPHANT Tony Blair travelled to Wales last night to urge voters to follow Scotland's example by endorsing an assembly in next week's referendum.

With Labour facing a tough fight to secure victory on Thursday, Mr Blair sought to build on the momentum of his success in Scotland by staging a walkabout in the centre of Cardiff and appealing to Welsh voters to deliver "a constitution fit for the 21st century".

The Prime Minister said he hoped that Labour's success in Scotland, which saw voters backing a parliament by a margin of three to one and also endorsing tax-varying powers, would inspire people in Wales.

His intervention in Labour's flagging campaign in Wales came amid continuing signs that voters are divided over an assembly. An ICM poll this week for *The Guardian* showed that 37 per cent of voters in Wales supported an assembly, while 36 per cent rejected it, with 27 per cent undecided.

To loud cheers from shoppers in Cardiff, he described the Scottish vote as "the kind of process of change that should carry on next Thursday here in Wales. "It's about bringing Government closer to the people."

William Hague, the Conservative leader, said last night that he could defeat the Government in Wales. He added: "They are being offered a pale shadow of what has been offered in Scotland."

Poll experts in Wales yesterday believed that the Scottish factor could bring another 10 or 12 per cent of support to the "yes" campaign.

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, will lead the final charge of the campaign up to next Thursday but will be assisted by senior ministers, MPs, MEPs, and Scottish devolution activists who are expected to arrive in Wales over the next few days.

In Edinburgh earlier yesterday Mr Blair addressed the hundreds who had gathered in Parliament Square, off the Royal Mile. As the crowd roared, Mr Blair walked triumphantly up to a platform accompanied by Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary.

Mr Dewar delivered an emotional address in which he hailed the final tally in which 74.3 per cent of voters endorsed a Parliament, with 63.5 per cent agreeing that the body should have tax-varying powers.

However, Mr Hague, speaking in London, said it: "It has been a sad night for the future of Scotland and the UK. But we have to respect the views of the people and clearly there will be a Scottish Parliament."

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Princes moved by words of comfort

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

PRINCES William and Harry said last night that all of the thousands of people who have written to them about their mother's death will receive a reply.

The two young Princes and the Prince of Wales spent several hours in St James's Palace earlier this week poring over the mountain of tributes, poems and gifts, after they had gone to thank staff dealing with the mail.

A spokesman said: "They were very touched, all of them, and they just could not believe the many, many letters from all ages and from so many countries. The Princes want to say a sincere thank you."

So far more than 300,000 letters have arrived at the Palace, some from children simply addressed to "Diana". An extra 30 staff were last night drafted into the Palace to deal with the mail.

On their visit the Princes sat at separate desks with their father between them reading a selection of the notes.

Prince Harry, who is 13 on Monday, read one letter saluting his bravery during the funeral procession when he walked through London behind his mother's coffin. The letter, from a boy of his own age, said: "It's very difficult to put all this into words, but I really wanted to write to you and tell you that you're a real brave guy." A letter to William and Harry said: "This is a note to say be brave, don't be afraid to cry."

The volunteer army who are painstakingly removing the floral tributes from London streets yesterday moved into Kensington Palace where the bouquets were shoulder-deep.

Police said they expect traffic chaos in West London over the weekend as more families leave their tributes.

The WRVS, who are helping in the clean-up operation, last night joined the singer Elton John in appealing for an end to the laying of flowers.

It is predicted that it will take six weeks to move the 15,000 tonnes of blooms.

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Fear of flying is penalty for Arsenal

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE image of English football as the home of an exotic band of worldly players pushing back national boundaries so quickly that a European league will soon be upon us, was dealt an embarrassing blow yesterday when one of its biggest names explained that he would have to miss a crucial match for his club next week because he is frightened of flying.

Dennis Bergkamp, the Dutch forward who cost Arsenal a record transfer fee of £7.5 million when they signed him two years ago, vowed never to fly again after a series of incidents as he travelled around America with the Dutch team during the 1994 World Cup.

Since he has been with Arsenal, he has driven himself to matches in Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and France, and had never missed a club game because of his fears.

Next Tuesday night, though, Arsenal will meet the Greek side PAOK Saloniki in Salonika in the first leg of the first round of the Uefa Cup. Yesterday, at the club's training ground near St Albans, Bergkamp admitted he would not be going.

"It was impossible for me to do it by car because we are playing tomorrow and then I would have to travel for three days," he said. "I do not feel guilty about it. I made the decision three years ago."

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said he was resigned to losing Bergkamp for the game. "There are only going to be very few clubs he cannot travel to," he said.

☐ Bergkamp could have travelled by coach, via Channel ferry or tunnel. By coach, he would have had to leave London this morning from Victoria at 10.30am, arriving in Athens a day and a half later, at 2am, then to Salonika by rail, arriving at 1.32am, for a shower and some sleep before the game. Alternatively, he could go all the way by train, arriving at Salonika at 1.32am on Monday.

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THE TIMES on Monday

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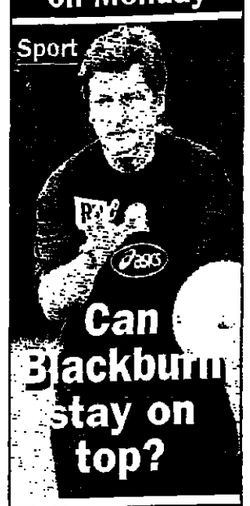

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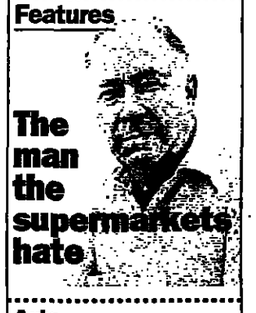

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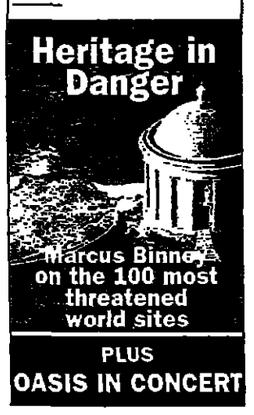

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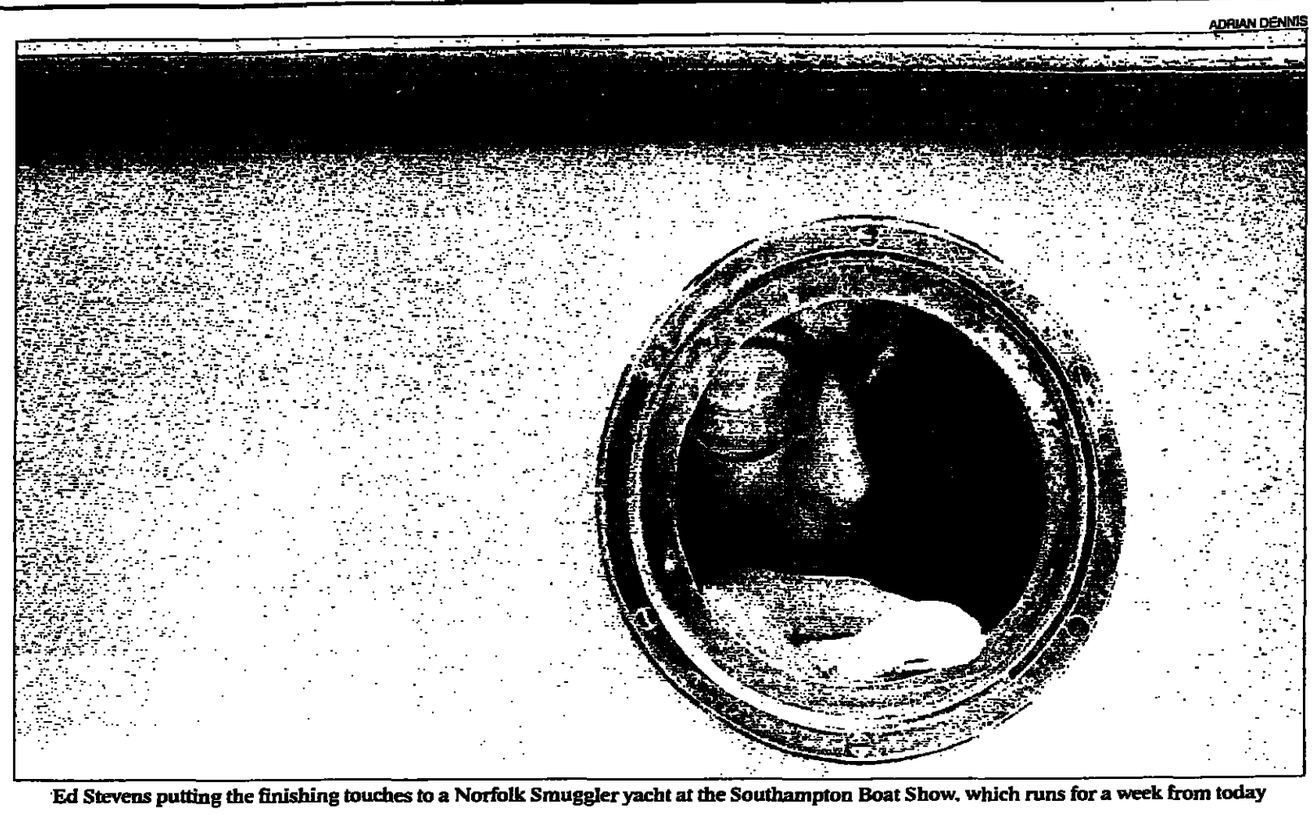
ADRIAN DENNIS



Ed Stevens putting the finishing touches to a Norfolk Smuggler yacht at the Southampton Boat Show, which runs for a week from today

Mental hospital closures halted

By Ian Murray
Medical Correspondent

PLANS to close the 35 remaining long-stay psychiatric hospitals are being frozen while a new vetting system is put in place to ensure adequate alternative care in the community services are available.

Announcing the freeze yesterday, Paul Boateng, the Health Minister, said care in the community had lost credibility. "It is perceived as having failed to deliver both in terms of the patients and in terms of the wider community," he said.

But he added that there would be no extra money for community care.

Advice on the level of care in each area will be given to the Government by a 26-member independent reference group, including Marjorie Wallace, Chief Executive of the Mental Health charity Sane, Dr Matt Muijen, director of the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, and Michael Howlett from the Zito Trust.

Ms Wallace, recently elected an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, said she would feed in information received from the thousand people a week who called Sane's helpline.

Blair warns Sinn Fein over ceasefire breach

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

THE Prime Minister last night moved to secure the Ulster Unionist Party's presence at next week's full-scale peace negotiations by vowing to eject Sinn Fein from them if the IRA breaks its ceasefire.

Speaking on the eve of today's crucial UUP executive meeting, Tony Blair said that Sinn Fein and the IRA were inextricably linked, and that if the republicans breached the Mitchell principles of democracy and non-violence "they will be out of the talks". Mr Blair also declared that "there must be no change in the constitutional status of Northern Ireland without the consent of the majority of people in Northern Ireland."

Those two statements should do much to reassure Unionists following Thursday's provocative IRA disavowal of the Mitchell principles to which Sinn Fein had committed iself just two days earlier, and what was seen as an attempt by Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, to dilute the principle of consent.

However Mr Blair failed to meet another UUP demand that the IRA be required to disarm during the negotiations. Loathe to unravel a carefully-constructed compromise, he said only that "we want to see actual decommissioning" during the talks.

Mr Blair said that he desperately wanted the Unionists to join the talks. It is now widely expected that the UUP executive will today opt to stay in the process while opposing face-to-face talks with Sinn Fein, and will give David Trimble, the party leader, flexibility to proceed as he sees fit. That could mean "proximity talks" of the sort used to negotiate peace in Bosnia, or insisting on a delay until Sinn Fein explains the IRA's move.

Trimble: promise gives flexibility to proceed

UUP officials said they believed that the IRA interview in *An Phoblacht*, the mouthpiece of the republican movement, was a ploy to provoke a Unionist boycott, but insisted the party would not fall into that trap. The smaller Democratic Unionist and UK Unionist parties have already abandoned the peace process. If the UUP quit as well it would not only attract international condemnation, but give London and Dublin the opportunity to impose a settlement favourable to republicans.

Mr Adams, the Sinn Fein president, insisted he wanted inclusive talks, and urged Unionist leaders to join Sinn Fein at the talks on Monday. He admitted the interview's timing was "unfortunate" but insisted the ensuing furore "nonsensical". He said he signed the Mitchell principles on behalf of Sinn Fein alone and that the IRA was a separate organisation.

☐ A car bomb exploded in the Irish Republic yesterday in what was believed to be a revenge attack for the murder of a cross-border drug-dealer linked with terrorists.

BA deal lifts cabin crew strike threat

By Jon Ashworth

THE threat of further strikes at British Airways was lifted yesterday when the airline struck a deal with cabin crew unions over budget savings.

Talks had been continuing since July's three-day strike which cost BA an estimated £125 million. The Transport and General Workers' Union tabled proposals which BA has accepted will achieve the £42 million of savings it wanted in its cabin crew operation.

Fewer than 300 BA staff officially went on strike, but hundreds more went sick, disrupting flights for weeks. Staff were angry at "macho-management" tactics by BA in its search for annual cost-savings of £1 billion.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said the agreement signalled "a genuinely new beginning for relations and spirit of co-operation inside the company". Bill Morris, general secretary of the TGWU, said the deal showed the union's commit*ment to the airline's competitive success.*

In an important concession, BA has lifted sanctions imposed on staff who openly went on strike. They faced being barred from promotion for three years and lost the right to travel privileges. The mainstream TGWU cabin crew union, the British Airline Stewards and Stewardesses Association (Bassa), has been allowed to reopen offices at Heathrow and Gatwick.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Schoolboys detained for machete murder

Six schoolboys who were part of a Triad-style gang that ran off laughing after their leader had stabbed to death 14-year-old Carl Rickard with a machete, were ordered to be detained by an Old Bailey judge yesterday. Clive Taylor, QC, sentenced four of the youths — aged 15 to 17 — to three and a half years' detention and the other two to three years.

None of them can be named because of their youth. The judge described their attack as "cowardly", adding: "Society cannot tolerate this type of behaviour."

Rickard, known as "CJ", was murdered outside his school in front of fellow pupils by Nathan Brown, 16, the gang leader. On Tuesday Brown was ordered to be detained for life after being found guilty of murder.

Boy missing in Norfolk

Police were searching last night for a 12-year-old boy who vanished after leaving home on Tuesday for his first day at a new school (*Michael Horsnell writes*). *Daniel Whittle*, from Gorleston, Norfolk, lives about 20 miles from Happisburgh, the home of Thomas Marshall, 12, who was strangled last month. A police spokesman said: "It would be foolish to close our minds to the possibility of a link."

Overladen and over limit

A woman who had at least nine young children in her car while twice the legal alcohol limit was jailed for three months. Amanda Ryan-McCurdy, 24, of Salford, near Manchester, was stopped by police while taking children home after their parents failed to fetch them from a football match. Her lawyer said she had been at a party the previous night and had not realised she was over the limit.

Labour funds missing

Mick Collins, a Labour member of Doncaster council, has apparently disappeared after party officials found more than £2,000 missing from the Adwick branch of the local party. Police are investigating the missing money. They are working separately from the police team set up to inquire into allegations that Doncaster councillors helped developers by zoning more land for building than was necessary.

Plea to save pond life

The conservationist David Bellamy yesterday launched Pond Week 97, part of a campaign to save ponds and wildlife such as frogs and newts. Dr Bellamy said: "Ponds are disappearing at an alarming rate and with them a rich variety of wildlife." Since the annual Pond Week began ten years ago some 600 ponds in the South East have been saved, restored or created.

Judge rewards barrister

A barrister who helped police to trap an armed robber was given a £500 reward by a judge at Manchester Crown Court. Steven Levine was in a Midland Bank in Manchester when Roy Conning, 32, of Liverpool, pointed a gun at him after demanding money from the cashiers. Conning ran off with £2,600 but Mr Levine gave chase and alerted police in a passing car. Conning was jailed for 16 years.

Maori heads returned

The first three of up to 200 shrunken heads of Maori warriors still held in British museums are to be returned to New Zealand. They were taken from victims of tribal wars and cured and sold to sailors as curiosities during the 19th century. Three held by museums at Whitby and Scarborough are being returned for ritual burial after a request from the Maori Affairs Minister.

Passport to diplomacy

More than 800 students, pupils, careers advisers and community leaders will watch British diplomacy in action when the Foreign Office throws open its doors to outsiders for the first time on Friday so that they can see how it works. The aim is to encourage more women, minority groups and others who may not have thought of a career in diplomacy.

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JONATHAN DAVIES: Life after Karen – page 44

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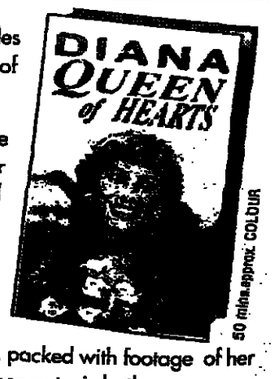
DIANA QUEEN OF HEARTS

News of the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales has been met by an unprecedented outpouring of emotion around the world.



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Don't fly too high, Superwoman tells girls

City star with five children has warned next generation about pitfalls of combining motherhood and career, writes **John O'Leary**

Nicola Horlick: advised career girls to plan ahead

YOUNG women must beware of trying to live up to a superwoman image by combining 12-hour days at the office with bringing up a family, Nicola Horlick, the City's best-known career mother, told a conference of head girls last night.

Mrs Horlick, who achieved celebrity status last year when she was suspended from her job as a £1 million-a-year fund manager, told 80 girls at a leadership conference that they should plan ahead if they wanted a career and children. Her own career path had been chosen to combine the two.

Corporate lawyer, junior doctor and marketing director were all jobs to avoid for those who would want time with their children, Mrs Horlick said before her conference appearance. "Of course, there have been women who have been successful in these fields and raised families, but it is not easy." As a general trainee with S. G. Warburg, she had surveyed the range of banking opportunities before identifying asset management as the one most conducive to family life.

"I always leave work to be home by 6.30-6.45 and I have never had to work weekends. I now spend quite a lot of time in the evenings with my 11-year-old."

Mrs Horlick, now a senior executive with Societe Generale, a French bank, added: "If you are going to have children, you have got to spend enough time with them. It simply isn't possible to work 14 hours a day and have a realistic relationship with your children." With five children and a series of high-powered jobs, Mrs Horlick has often been dubbed a superwoman, but it is a title she rejects. "If I am a superwoman, there are many others around the place. The fact that I might earn a lot of money doesn't make me any different."

Mrs Horlick said: "I have never been very happy with the Superwoman label. Superman is a sort of Jesus Christ type of figure, flying around doing good; Superwoman conjures up a picture of a completely exhausted woman with broken nails and bags under her eyes trying to juggle responsibilities. The concepts just don't match."

The annual meeting, at Wimbledon High School, has the title of Beyond Superwoman. A poll of sixth-formers at schools belonging to the Girls Public Day School Trust showed that many thought the concept outdated. Only 13 per cent intended to work full-time before their children went to school, with 38 per cent favouring part-time work.

Mrs Horlick said: "Some of the girls seem to think they can push the frontiers out even further than my generation has done, in terms of working longer hours. But others seem to be reacting to their parents' lives and want to stay at home and have children. It may be that girls are moving in that direction, although it is difficult to say whether they will do what they say now."

Mrs Horlick, a former trust pupil at Birkenhead High School, (although not head girl) is involved in establishing a fund to replace its 34,000 assisted places. "I think one of the great benefits of Birkenhead was the wide social mix, and I would hate that to be lost."

She advised the teenagers to take advantage of summer internships and other work-experience schemes to gauge which careers would suit their lifestyle. "Girls are in a much better position nowadays to judge whether a career is going to be right for them."

However, Mrs Horlick warned the girls that there was still a social stigma attached to working motherhood. "Many men and women have been very aggressive towards me, but I think I am a better mother for having worked."

Advising girls to keep an open mind on returning to work after having children, she said: "If I thought my children were suffering I would stop working. It is important to have the right sort of childcare if you are going to work."

OLD BOYS DIG IN THEIR HEELS

A YEAR after the merger of a town's boys' school with the neighbouring girls' school, old boys said that they would resign en masse if forced to admit old girls to their association (David Charter writes). More than 70 Old Berkhamstedians are threatening to form a breakaway society if they fail to prevent the formation of a joint alumni association in a vote today. Many old boys of Berkhamsted School, Hertfordshire (founded 1541), were already outraged at the adoption of the name Berkhamsted Collegiate School for the combined school. The committees of the Old Berkhamstedians' Association and the Old Girls' Guild support merger but there is fury among the association's rank and file. The composer and conductor Antony Hopkins, 76, said: "I think this is monstrous. I am an Old Berkhamstedian and why the hell should I not continue to be an Old Berkhamstedian."

Sculptor quits over 'tasteless' RA show

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

AN ACADEMICIAN resigned from the Royal Academy of Arts yesterday, attacking the "nauseating hypocrisy" of his colleagues in allowing a controversial exhibition of blood and dismembered limbs to be shown.

The sculptor Michael Sandle said last night that he could no longer tolerate "their stupidity, hypocrisy and moral cowardice". He said: "The exhibition was foisted upon us because of a gap when another exhibition fell through. It is the awful hype about this show which I find distasteful."

He attacked the institution for borrowing a ready-made exhibition from Charles Saatchi. It includes a portrait of Myra Hindley made from children's handprints, by Marcus Harvey, and sculptures such as the Chapman brothers' dismembered, bloody limbs, torso and head of a mutilated corpse.

"The RA should not take on an exhibition reflecting Saatchi's lack of taste. There is going to be blood on the carpet over this, a tremendous row. My resignation is just the thin end of the wedge," he said. "The trouble is we've been used as stooges by [Norman] Rosenthal [the exhibition secretary] for rather too long. We, the academicians, are the reason the place is there. It's treated like an old people's home."

He accused Mr Rosenthal of using the RA as a springboard for his own career.

Professor Sandle, whose work is represented in collections such as the Tate and Metropolitan in New York and whose commissions include a George Orwell memorial in Wigan, said the language he used in breaking the news of his resignation was probably "still ringing in their ears". He became an academician in 1982. "It no longer feels like an honour. I feel they have dishonoured thsmelves," he said.

"I rather hope people are going to decide the time has come to get back to basics and find out what the Academy is about. It's not about merchandising and selling T-shirts. It's not their remit. They're supposed to foster standards. They've sold out in a way they will bitterly regret.

"My point has been that there are other British artists besides the people who reflect the tastes of Saatchi, the Turner Prize, Goldsmiths College and all that lot. The RA should have curated its own show and gone out and found those artists. With Saatchi, they've lost their independence."

While many of his colleagues had focused their criticism on the Hindley portrait, he levelled his attack against the whole show. The Hindley could quite easily have been "juried out", he said, noting that that happened regularly with Summer Show exhibits.

David Gordon, secretary of the Academy, said of Professor Sandle's resignation: "Only he can explain his decision."

In an *Omnibus* programme to be shown on BBC1 tomorrow, Mr Rosenthal says: "It's a high risk exhibition for the Academy. A large number of people who regularly come to Academy exhibitions will be shocked. I think there will be people queuing round the block to come and see what all the fuss is about."

Simon Jenkins, page 22
Magazine page 44

SIMON WALKER

Young hopefuls queue to audition for the female lead in the new series of *The Professionals*. The producers were looking for "a feisty female foil" to attract male viewers

Estuary girls flock to join The Professionals

By Bill Frost

FROM as far afield as Clacton and Catford, the young wannabes came in their hundreds yesterday for a role in the remake *The Professionals*, last a ratings success when their mothers could still wear short skirts.

Kitted out in the tightest leather jeans, skimpiest Lycra tops and heavy make-up, the girls from estuary Essex and southeast London appeared unaware of the sexism, kitsch excesses and absurdities of the late and largely unlamented television series. They had been lured to auditions at a theatre off Drury Lane by the prospect of playing Tina Backus, "a feisty female foil" to the new male leads in a series that goes into production next month.

Few, if any, of the girls remembered Bodie and Doyle, played in the original series by Lewis Collins and Martin Shaw. "My mum said one was quite handsome and the other had a pigeon chest," said Samantha from Epping.

Unlike the painted legions who converged on Drury Lane yesterday, Bodie and Doyle have no interest in reviving the series. Collins will be playing pantomime in Canterbury when filming begins and Shaw — the thoughtful one who now regards himself as a "serious actor" after starring in the BBC series *Rhodes* — threatened legal action in an attempt to prevent the original series being rebroadcast.

Doyle, left, and Bodie, right, with Gordon Jackson, their controller in the original series

Kerry Jay, 21, from Clacton, one among many hopefuls, could not understand their unwillingness to get back behind the wheel of a Ford Capri, burn rubber, shout at each other and then kill people. "I never saw it myself, but I understand it was very popular and bringing a girl into the cast in a leading role has got to be a good idea," she said.

Yesterday the girls muttered their lines in a queue which snaked three floors from the foyer to the auditorium. Each fresh-faced arrival was treated to a glare by her predecessor.

Erin Marsh from Bushey, Hertfordshire, said that, if chosen, she would play Tina Backus as "a New Age female with plenty of attitude". Sam Macnichol, an aerobics instructor from Watford, was going to bring "a sexy confidence to the part" if chosen. "I know it was a bit of a joke at the time — all that male bonding in Ford Capris — but the new series gives a chance to women and that's got to be good."

David Wickes, a veteran director of the original series who put together a £10 million deal in the City to finance the remake, said that buyers were lining up from Japan to The Netherlands. "The female interest is not a homage to political correctness, far from it. The girl chosen to play Tina is simply there to attract a male audience. In the old series Bodie and Doyle drew the women, so this time around we want to appeal to the other half of the population as well."

But have *The Professionals* survived the passage of time — spoofed by the Comic Strip team and parodied in a Nissan commercial? "Certainly they have, and imitation is the most sincere form of flattery," Mr Wickes insisted.

"There is a perennial market for people's champions and there is a whole new range of villains to take on. The world is a much more dangerous place than 20 years ago and people like to feel there is somebody out there dealing with it."

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

SMALL FRY

"When I wanted money or sweets, I stole them and I didn't care from whom. From my mother's handbag at home or from the desks and hanging clothes of my fellow pupils. I am trying hard, even now, to forgive myself"

A thief's progress: part one of Stephen Fry's autobiography — in News Review tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Bernard's mourners get into spirit

Friends marked the columnist's life in suitable style at the pub, reports Damian Whitworth

FRIENDS, colleagues and drinking partners gathered for last orders in the low life of Jeffrey Bernard yesterday.

The funeral of the Soho Bohemian and columnist had all the wicked humour of an evening in his beloved Coach and Horses pub and was packed with a familiar cast of florid-cheeked characters.

The service, at the West London Crematorium in Kensal Green, was at noon, by which time those with the most lived-in faces were attended by clouds of alcohol fumes. Other guests included Keith Waterhouse, who wrote the stage play *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell*, Peter O'Toole, who starred in the play, Beryl Bainbridge and Ned Sherrin.

Alexander Chancellor, one of four editors at *The Spectator* for whom Bernard had written his Low Life column, said that his friend's death last week had been appropriate. "It was typical of his theatrical side that he chose to die at a time of unprecedented national mourning. This has been a source of a multitude of poor jokes that Jeffrey would have enjoyed a lot."

He said that Frank Johnson, the current Editor of the the magazine, had declared: "The paparazzi did it. They weren't giving him enough attention." In his tribute Mr Chancellor said that Bernard had sometimes been almost unbearably funny but also made his readers share his suffering, joy and anger with the constant spectre of his own death never far away. "He gradually acquired the status of the country's one officially tolerated moral reprobate."

He recalled an article in which Bernard had written of his appalling behaviour when he was at school. "He deliberately dropped pencils in order to look up the teacher's skirt. To his horror the teacher was still alive, read the column and wrote to him," Mr Chancellor said. "But she wrote not in a state of shock but to inquire tenderly after him. Only Jeffrey could have received such a letter under those circumstances."

Mr O'Toole remembered an incident while he was playing Bernard on the stage and the rakish columnist came back to the dressing room. "He said to me, 'You and Keith have made me very happy.' Then he left, took the wrong turning and finished up on the stage. There was the real Jeffrey on stage in a fictional boozer."

In his address, the journalist Mike Molloy said: "By birth he should have been an officer and a gentleman but he marched to a different drum, in fact an entirely different orchestra. Many people said that he sought the company of famous people. In my experience it was the famous who sought Jeffrey's company — though not for his charm. Most of the time he was raging about bookies, about Chinese waiters, editors, publicans and women who failed to buy a round." Mr Molloy recalled being in a bar at Ascot with Bernard when a well-known trainer came over and greeted him warmly. "Then he said, 'Where are your hats?' Jeffrey said, 'What do I need a hat for?' 'Suppose you meet the Queen. What will you raise?' 'There's always the question of my knighthood.' "

Bernard's ashes are expected to be taken to the Gallops training ground at Lambourn, close to where he once lived.

But first Norman Balon, the landlord of the Coach and Horses, immortalised by Bernard as "the rudest landlord in London", led a move back to the pub to celebrate the life of his best customer.

Last night a barman raised his voice above the din in the background to report that the wake was still going strong. "Everyone's in fairly good spirits. They're still at it and nobody's too mournful." This morning, no doubt, some will be unwell.

MARTIN BEDDALL

Memories of Jeffrey Bernard, left, being shared by Peter O'Toole and Michael Elphick before the cremation

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COMPAQ DELIVERS MORE COMPAQ

Butler who stole from millionaire given 3½ years

BY LIN JENKINS

A BUTLER who used his millionaire employers' money to enjoy a lavish lifestyle of champagne, cocaine, bodyguards and prostitutes was jailed for 3½ years yesterday.

Southwark Crown Court was told that Percival Hole adopted the role of a single, lonely millionaire and impressed his new friends from the local pub with parties at his employers' £4 million Regency home. Servants provided meals that included wild boar and £1,500 bottles of Château Pétrus. He also sold his employers' £56,000 Bentley Turbo car after registering it in his own name.

The court was told that Hole, 49, was an able confidence trickster with a record of petty crime who had been drummed out of the Army's catering corps. He was sent by a domestic employment agency, with immaculate references, to Rodney Price, the Australian chairman of the Thistle hotels group, and his wife, Loeen, who gave him the job of manservant.

Judge David Elfer, jailing Hole for theft, said that when he took the job in the house off Belgrave Square in London, he hid the fact that he had seen the inside of a prison cell and been cashiered from the Army.

"You undeniably had a yen for what you considered to be the high life," the judge said, "and you were prepared to stoop to dishonesty to achieve it. You took a well-rewarded position on a salary of £21,500 with accommodation, all expenses and food paid, and your employers, decent, honourable and trusting people, left you for many months at a time in charge of their household in this country. But you wanted more. You wanted the trappings and the appearance of your employers' wealth and you abused their trust."

He said Hole stole the money and went across Europe with the intention of investing in an Estonian timber company. "But still you did not resist the pampered life. It was first-class rail and hotels, a bodyguard at £200 a day, prostitutes, drugs and drink."

Mr and Mrs Price were trusting and asked no questions when Hole said that in Britain all documents relating to a car had to be kept with it. Mrs Price handed over the papers for her Bentley, which Hole registered in his own name and sold for £56,000. Hole also stole £3,500 from the safe in the house.

The couple were unaware that their butler had swapped his downstairs position for upstairs luxury until they returned home to find him, the cash, two paintings and the car missing.

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Osborne House calls off wedding plans

Couple disappointed after English Heritage says ceremonies in Queen Victoria's dining room would be inappropriate, reports **Ruth Gledhill**

ENGLISH Heritage has abandoned plans to allow Osborne House, the Italianate palace on the Isle of Wight where Queen Victoria and Prince Albert brought up their nine children, to be used for civil wedding ceremonies.

The change of heart has left at least one couple disappointed after a date was pencilled in for their wedding. Dozens of others who had made inquiries about being married there will also be saddened by the decision.

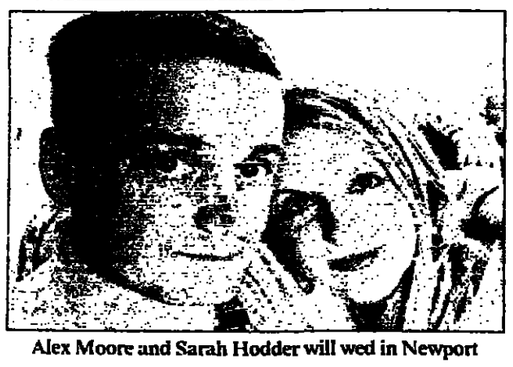
Alex Moore, 35, and Sarah Hodder, 28, had fixed their wedding date for November 1 and told friends and family of their delight at being the first couple to marry at Osborne since Queen Victoria's third child, Princess Alice, wed Prince Louis of Hesse in the royal dining room in July 1862.

The day before Miss Hodder went to place her order for the invitations for 50 guests to attend their wedding in the dining room, with drinks in the magnificent Durbar room, they were informed by telephone of the change of heart, made by senior officials at English Heritage who considered it "inappropriate".

They are believed to have been worried that it was bad taste to marry people in the room in which Queen Victoria's body lay in state in 1901. There were also security concerns about items of historic value.

Miss Hodder will now wed her fiancé, a sales representative, at Newport register office. She said: "It is a shame, because the wedding was going to be in the dining room, which is very big and airy. With its red velvet and paintings of the Royal Family, it was preferable to anywhere else on the Isle of Wight. The red velvet in particular would have given the wedding a nice, appropriate autumnal feel."

She added: "As register offices go, Newport is not bad. They have paintings on the wall and Laura Ashley-style curtains. It's quite nice. But at the end of the day, it is getting married that is the important thing, not where you marry."



Alex Moore and Sarah Hodder will wed in Newport

Her daughter, Megan, 4, will still be the bridesmaid and plans for the reception, at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club in Cowes, remain unchanged. In addition, the register office would cost £50, compared to a total of £600 for a wedding at Osborne House. This meant that they had been able to change their plans for a wintry honeymoon England and are now looking forward to jetting off to a week of sunshine in Thailand.

A spokeswoman for English Heritage denied there had been any pressure from Buckingham Palace or the Royal Family to change the plans. The decision was made within English Heritage itself, she said. "After careful consideration, it has been decided that holding civil wedding ceremonies would be an inappropriate use of Queen Victoria's royal palace."

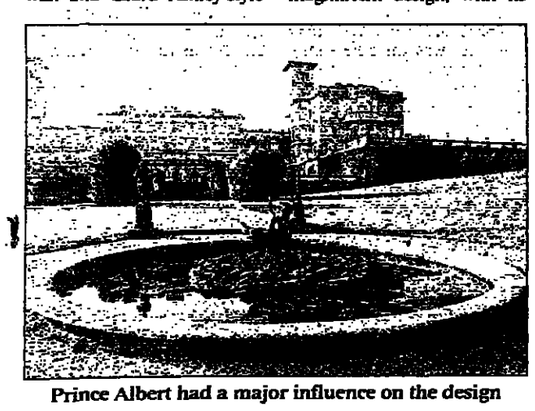
Osborne House is currently being restored at a cost of £6 million to return it to its former glory in time for the centenary of Queen Victoria's death in 2001. Victoria and Albert bought the estate, then 3,500 acres, with their own money in 1845.

Much of the credit for the magnificent design, with its Cinquecento motifs and asymmetrically placed towers, is given to Prince Albert himself, although the master builder he commissioned, Thomas Cubitt, who was responsible for Belgravia in London, was extremely influential.

Like his descendant, the Prince of Wales, Prince Albert was a keen farmer and agronomist, and the estate became a well-managed, profitable concern as well as a haven of peace and tranquillity for the Royal Family.

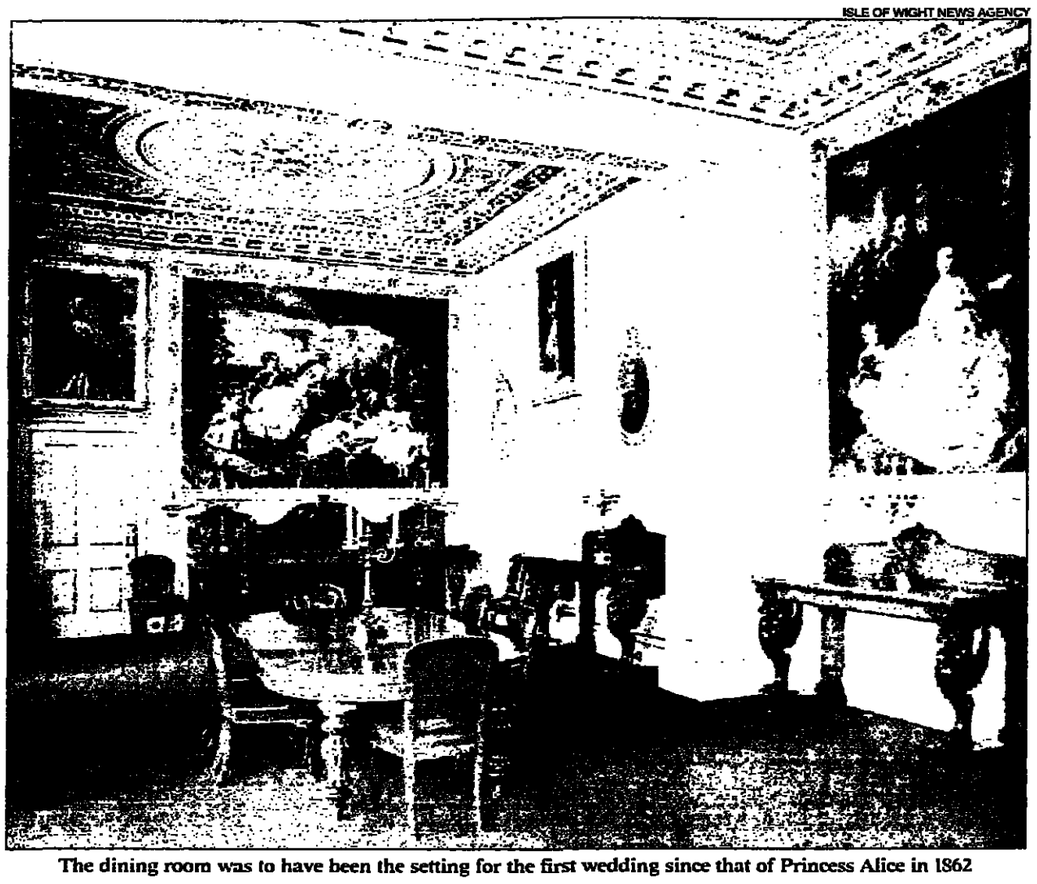
English Heritage took over the palace in 1986 and has already restored the gardens, parks, walks and parts of the house itself, opening them to visitors from April to October. The plan to open Osborne House for civil weddings, made possible by the 1994 Marriage Act, was intended to maximise revenue in the winter.

When it was announced in June that Osborne House might become a venue for civil weddings, Lorraine Porter, the Isle of Wight's superintendant registrar, said: "The opening up of Osborne will be a terrific boost to the Island. It is bound to become one of the country's top civil wedding venues and we are all very excited at the prospect."



Prince Albert had a major influence on the design

ISLE OF WIGHT NEWS AGENCY



The dining room was to have been the setting for the first wedding since that of Princess Alice in 1862

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Buyers may try to cash in on auctioned dresses

Americans who bought the Princess's clothes have seen them rise tenfold in value, writes **Tunku Varadarajan**

A FORTNIGHT after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, scores of people across America who bought dresses belonging to the Princess at the New York charity auction in June have realised that they are sitting on their own private goldmines.

Experts believe that the value of each dress has soared and that many owners will eventually be tempted to cash in. One buyer has already placed an advertisement in *The Wall Street Journal*, offering for sale "a Princess Di dress". Purchased for $24,500, the seller is asking $250,000.

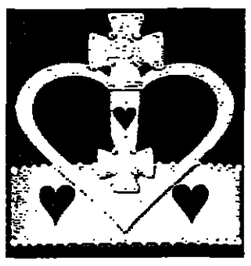
The buyers of a dress encrusted with simulated pearls who intend to take the pearls off and recast them in earrings to be sold for charity, expect to raise $10 million. The Princess's 79 dresses in total raised $3.25 million at the Christie's auction.

A source at Christie's said: "I think these dresses have turned into the best investment in town. Where else can someone have spent, say, $40,000 and expect a return on his investment three months later of about $300,000? I think there would be buyers for every single one of those dresses — even the more ghastly ones — and they'd happily pay huge sums for them. We're likely to see sellers come out of the woodwork once a respectable mourning period has passed."

Asked if his auction house would participate in a resale of the Princess's dresses, he expressed horror. "Of course not. That would be in terrible taste."

The pearl-encrusted dress, designed by Catherine Walker, was bought for $34,500 by Roxanne Duke, who runs International Gem and Jewellery Show Inc, a family-owned company based in Maryland.

The "queen of hearts" earring to incorporate pearls from the dress



Yesterday Vicki Eaton, the company's director of administrative operations, said the sale of the earrings was "strictly for charitable purposes, with every cent going to the institutions which Princess Diana worked so hard to help when she was alive".

The owners are upset that their charitable enterprise has been "misrepresented" in the tabloid press. The dress in question — lot 54 — was one of the more garish items. A long-sleeved dinner gown of cream pleated silk, it was worn by the Princess at an official reception in London in 1982, and again on a state visit to Nepal in 1993.

The company wrote to the Princess some weeks after buying the dress for her permission to remove the thousands of simulated pearls for earrings. Ms Easton said: "We had decided, even then, that the proceeds would go exclusively to charity, and we told her so in the letter."

Ms Eaton added: "She wrote a nice letter back to us, within days, saying that the dress was ours and that she was delighted for us to do anything with it that we liked. Of course, she seemed pleased that we were giving the money to charity."

The company wrote also to Catherine Walker, who was happy with the plan, which involves taking the dress apart. Forms are now handed out at the company's shows, inviting buyers to apply for earrings, costing $1,000 a pair.

The earrings will have the shape of a crown "since Princess Diana was the queen of hearts". Set in 14-carat gold, the design also incorporates a cross and hearts.

The Dukes are also selling men's lapel pins, each incorporating a single pearl, for $800. The pins will also have a little red ribbon, "symbolising the Aids cause, to which the Princess gave so much of her precious time".

Ms Eaton also revealed that the company is considering making brooches with the dress's buttons, priced at "$100 to $175, for those who cannot afford the more expensive items". Ms Eaton said that she is getting "hundreds of orders a day".

Eyebrows were raised in New York this week with the publication in *The Wall Street Journal* of an advertisement for the sale of one of the Princess's dresses. The dress, lot 35, is a cocktail dress of scarlet silk lace, also by Catherine Walker, and worn by the Princess on a visit to Argentina. Its $25,000 price was one of the lowest of the auction. The unnamed collector is now asking ten times as much.

Michelle Gates, acting for the vendor, said that several offers of $150,000 had been turned down. She said: "I don't believe at this time that my client is interested in selling it for less than $250,000." The proceeds will not go to charity but Ms Gates denies that her client is profiting from the Princess's death.

By contrast, a Scottish couple who bought one of the auction dresses have cancelled plans to put it on display.

Briege and Graeme Mackenzie paid £39,098 for the black silk Christina Stramboulian cocktail dress worn by the Princess on the night her husband admitted adultery on television. Mrs Mackenzie, 44, said she had cancelled plans to display the dress on October 1 at a lunch in aid of the Children First charity. The couple, who met the Princess at a preview in London before the auction, had told her of their plans to show the dress across Scotland to raise money for their favourite charity.

Mrs Mackenzie said: "I think we will still go ahead with our plans, but we will wait maybe until this time next year. I am thinking of talking to her office at Kensington Palace to ask them what they think."

The dress is at present wrapped in tissue paper and stored in a bank vault. The couple are thought to be the only private buyers from Britain although some dresses were bought by British newspapers.

A private client buying a Catherine Walker dress in the early 1980s would have expected to pay in excess of £5,000, fashion industry sources said.

The price would include numerous fittings. The dressmaker does not disclose prices for haute couture dresses for private clients.

The Princess wearing the pearl-encrusted dress that is to be taken apart

Verdi's Requiem played in honour at Proms

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

THE Proms are honouring one of their most ardent fans, Diana, Princess of Wales.

More than 5,000 Promenaders last night saluted the Princess with extracts from Verdi's *Requiem*, her favourite classical piece, which was played at her funeral. Organisers decided there should be no speeches, preferring a reference in the programme to the deaths of the Princess and Sir Georg Solti, the conductor who was due to perform the *Requiem* last night. His place was taken by Sir Colin Davis.

In his speech at the last night of the Proms today, the conductor Andrew Davis is expected to honour Diana. "Tradition dictates that his speech is secret but you can be assured that the events of the past week will figure large," a spokesman said.

The final programme has been hastily amended to include *Jupiter* from *The Planets* suite by Holst. The spokesman said: "Everyone will know it as the tune for the hymn *I Vow to Thee My Country*, which was one of the most emotional moments of the funeral.

"The Princess was a great fan of the Proms, and we of her. The last time that Verdi's *Requiem* was played five years ago she was there and she told us how she cried. It was her favourite classical piece. The Proms are always a very emotional affair and unashamedly there will be many tears shed."

The music industry has taken a lead in suggesting ways to raise money for the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, name with many thousands expected to buy Elton John's record of *Candle in the Wind* when it goes on sale today.

There are promises of pop concerts to come. Richard Branson is already preparing an event to coincide with the first anniversary of her death next summer. Efforts are being made to persuade the three surviving members of the Beatles to come together for the day in concerts to be held simultaneously in *London, New York and Paris*.

Gary Barlow, lead singer of Take That, said yesterday that the group would reform for a Christmas concert at Wembley for the fund. He told BBC 1's *Newsround* that Take That would play three songs.

IN BRIEF

Tourists who took tributes are freed

Two Slovak women jailed by a magistrate for 28 days on Thursday for taking toys and flowers laid in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales in London were released on appeal yesterday and were each ordered to pay a £200 fine.

Judge Geoffrey Rivlin, QC, told Maria Rigociova, 56, and Agnesa Sihelska, 50, that a night in Holloway prison must have given them "a terrible shock". He was releasing them, he said, in keeping with the compassion which characterised the nation in the aftermath of the Princess's death.

At Southwark Crown Court, Andrew Greenwood, for the defence, said it had been far from their intention to upset the British people. Rigociova, the guide with a coach party of Slovaks, said that she had thought the flowers and toys were to be destroyed.

Song in demand

Record shops have placed orders for 1.5 million copies of Elton John's *Candle In The Wind '97*, the tribute song he sang at the Princess's funeral. It also emerged that retailers are to meet the request of his record company to donate most of their profits from its sale to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. Manufacturers have been able to press only 250,000 copies so far, so some customers are likely to be disappointed today when the single goes on sale, priced at £3.99.

Prince's visit

The Prince of Wales is to carry out his first public engagements next week since the death of his former wife. He will visit the Manchester area and, although a list of engagements has not yet been completed, it is understood that his itinerary will include opportunities to meet the public. A large police operation is expected, to cope with large numbers of people wanting to greet the Prince, who was last seen in public a week ago, on the day of the Princess's funeral.

E-mail address

Gordon Brown announced the e-mail address to which suggestions can be sent for a national memorial to the Princess. It is: memorial@hm-treasury.gov.uk The Chancellor, who is heading a committee looking into the project, has asked the public to write to him at the Treasury with their ideas, but the e-mail address will provide a second route. Officials said the suggestions would get an instant electronic acknowledgement and would all be considered by the committee.

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Trevor Rees-Jones

Survivor could have amnesia

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THE bodyguard who survived the car crash in which the Princess died could be suffering from partial amnesia as a result of his injuries and may never be able to recall the crucial moments leading up to the accident.

Trevor Rees-Jones, 29, is able to communicate only by blinking, *Le Figaro* reported yesterday, and doctors have warned investigators that a combination of trauma and anaesthetic while under surgery may have impaired his memory. Although Mr Rees-Jones is recovering gradually from serious face, head and chest injuries, his parents have said that he will be unable to speak to investigators "for some time".

A spokesman at La Pitié Salpêtrière hospital could not confirm claims that Mr Rees-Jones has yet to be informed of the death of the Princess.

Mr Rees-Jones remains the key witness and questions over possible memory loss have added uncertainty to a case rife with rumour, claims, counter-claims and denials.

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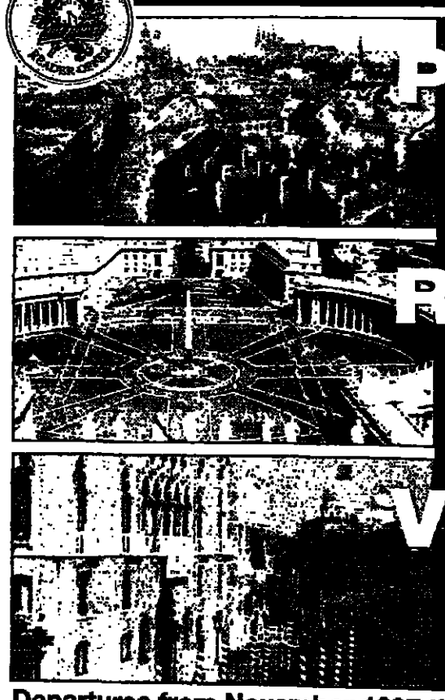

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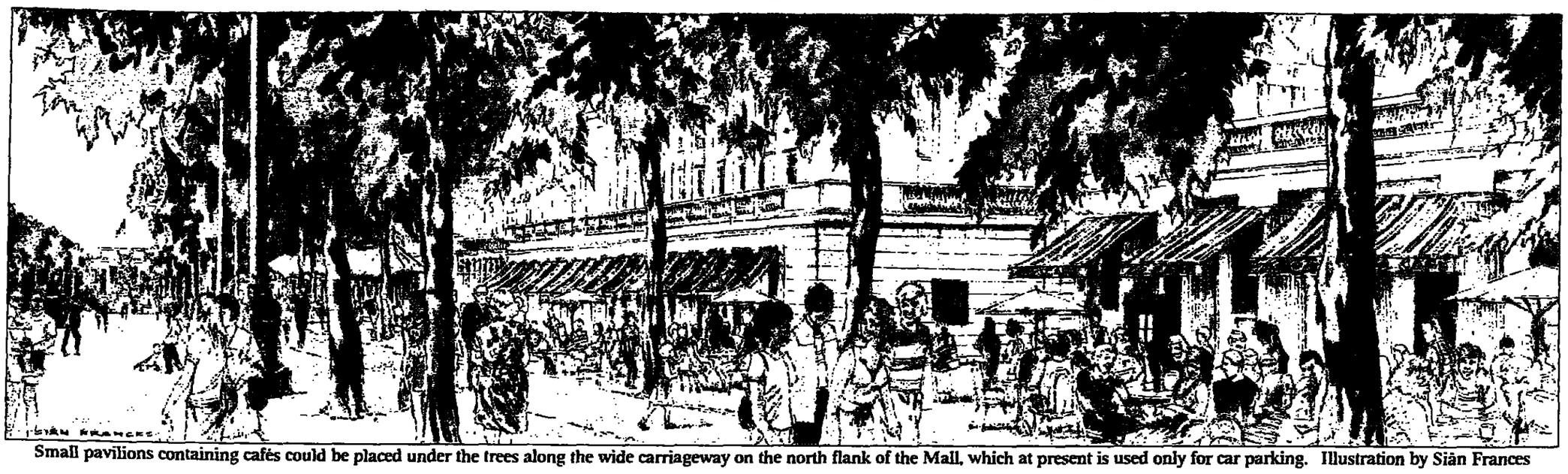
The royal route to people's promenade



Small pavilions containing cafés could be placed under the trees along the wide carriageway on the north flank of the Mall, which at present is used only for car parking. Illustration by Siân Frances

Marcus Binney on an architect's plan to tear down the palace walls

ONE of Britain's leading architects has drawn up radical proposals to strip away the walls around London's royal landmarks and turn them into "people's palaces".

Inspired by the huge crowds that thronged The Mall and royal parks after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, Terry Farrell, the designer of MI6's headquarters at Vauxhall Bridge, will next week present to Mark Fisher, the Arts Minister, plans that include demolishing the high walls around Buckingham Palace.

Mr Farrell believes the walls, topped by spikes and barbed wire, should be replaced by handsome ornamental railings, giving the public a view into the palace's spacious gardens. He would do the same with the wall along The Mall that shuts out the view of the gardens of St James's Palace.

"The royal palaces appear as huge buildings shut away behind walls," Mr Farrell said. "Inside, the large gardens are little used and totally unseen by the public."

A government committee, chaired by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is considering closing The Mall to traffic as a permanent memorial to the Princess, but Mr Farrell's plans go much further and include a public path through the royal gardens. The vast public tribute to the Princess showed that The Mall could serve as more than a convenient short cut across Central London for taxis and cars. Suddenly not just the pavements but the gravel rides under the trees became public promenades, as full of people as the Tuileries in Paris or the Paseo del Prado in Madrid.

Terry Farrell: wants public view of palace gardens

Mr Farrell said: "The funeral brought home the incredible beauty of The Mall and the royal parks. The urgent need is to improve the links between the parks.

"We also need to do away with the dreadful underpasses at Hyde Park Corner which completely cut off Hyde Park from Green Park. A direct street-level link must be created from Buckingham Palace up Constitution Hill, past the Apsley Arch and through the beautiful entrance screen into Hyde Park. "This route is always used by the Royal Family; now the public should follow. Traffic lights have already had to be introduced to control traffic, so it would be an easy matter to introduce an extra phase for pedestrians."

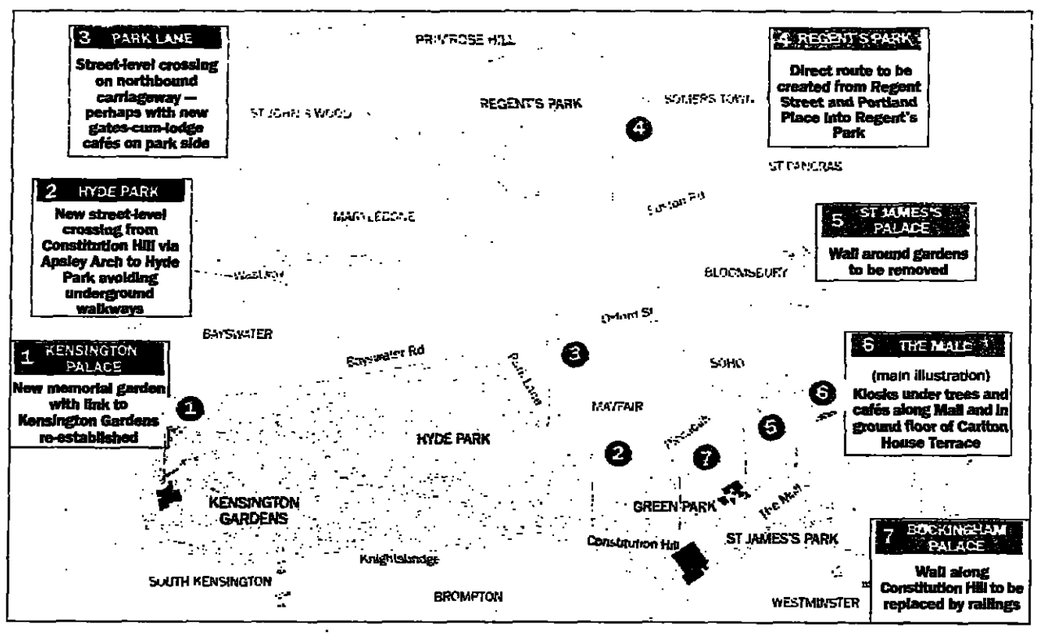
Mr Farrell, who was a member of the Royal Parks Review Committee, said such improvements could be carried out at a fraction of the cost of the £80 million tunnel proposed by the Royal Parks Agency to put all the traffic on Park Lane under ground.

Sir Terence Conran, the creator of some of London's leading restaurants, believes small pavilions containing cafés could be introduced under the trees along The Mall. These pavilions could be placed in the wide carriageway, on the north flank of The Mall, which at present is used only for car parking.

Although Changing the Guard is London's leading tourist attraction, anyone wanting to sit down afterwards for a cake or a coffee has to make a long trek to Victoria, St James's or Trafalgar Square. "Buckingham Palace has shown the way with the elegant tented ticket kiosk by Sir Michael Hopkins opposite the Victoria memorial," Sir Terence said. "Tables and chairs could be set out around the kiosks and removed in winter."

Further possibilities will open up if the Institute of Contemporary Arts proceeds with a planned move from The Mall to new premises at Blackfriars Bridge. The basement of the eastern half of Carlton House Terrace, which it occupies, fronts The Mall and could be transformed into cafés and restaurants.

"Restaurants and bars along The Mall would appeal not only to tourists but to people working on both sides of St James's Park," Sir Terence said.



In the 1960s officials at the Crown Commissioners argued that the length of Carlton House Terrace on The Mall should be transformed into cafés similar to those along the Champs-Elysées. Traditionalists overruled them and the western half of Carlton House Terrace along The Mall was scooped out to form a vast underground car park. The Duke of York steps, like the Spanish Steps in Rome, could be a suitable venue for flower sellers.

Mr Farrell believes that removing the walls around Buckingham Palace would not mean infringing on the Royal Family's privacy. "There are numerous shrubs and trees around the perimeter of the gardens, so removing the walls would not expose the Royal Family to view every time they walked into the garden," he said.

"Railings backed up by security cameras could be just as effective as the present wall which has no visual appeal. In years to come it should be possible to open up a direct route through the palace gardens from Victoria station.

"People can walk into the gardens of the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, so it should be possible here."

Car-free cities, page 10

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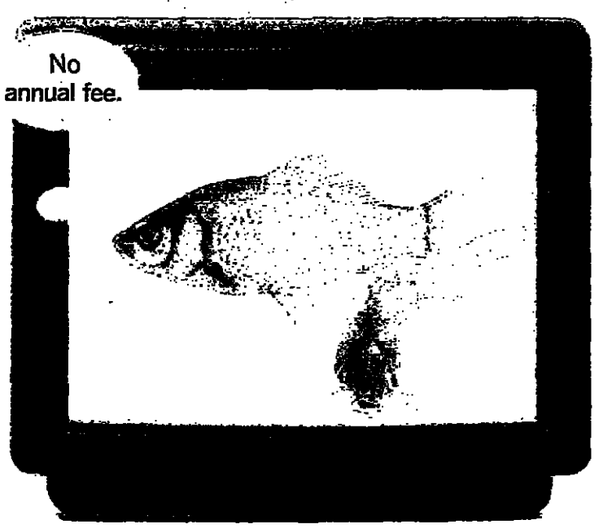

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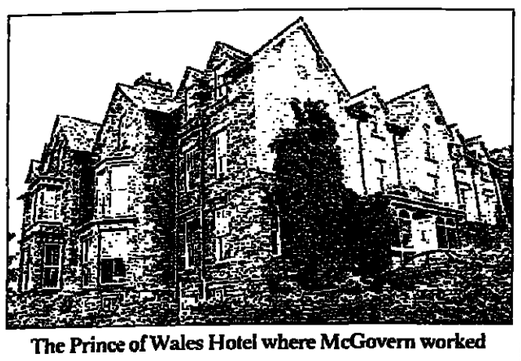
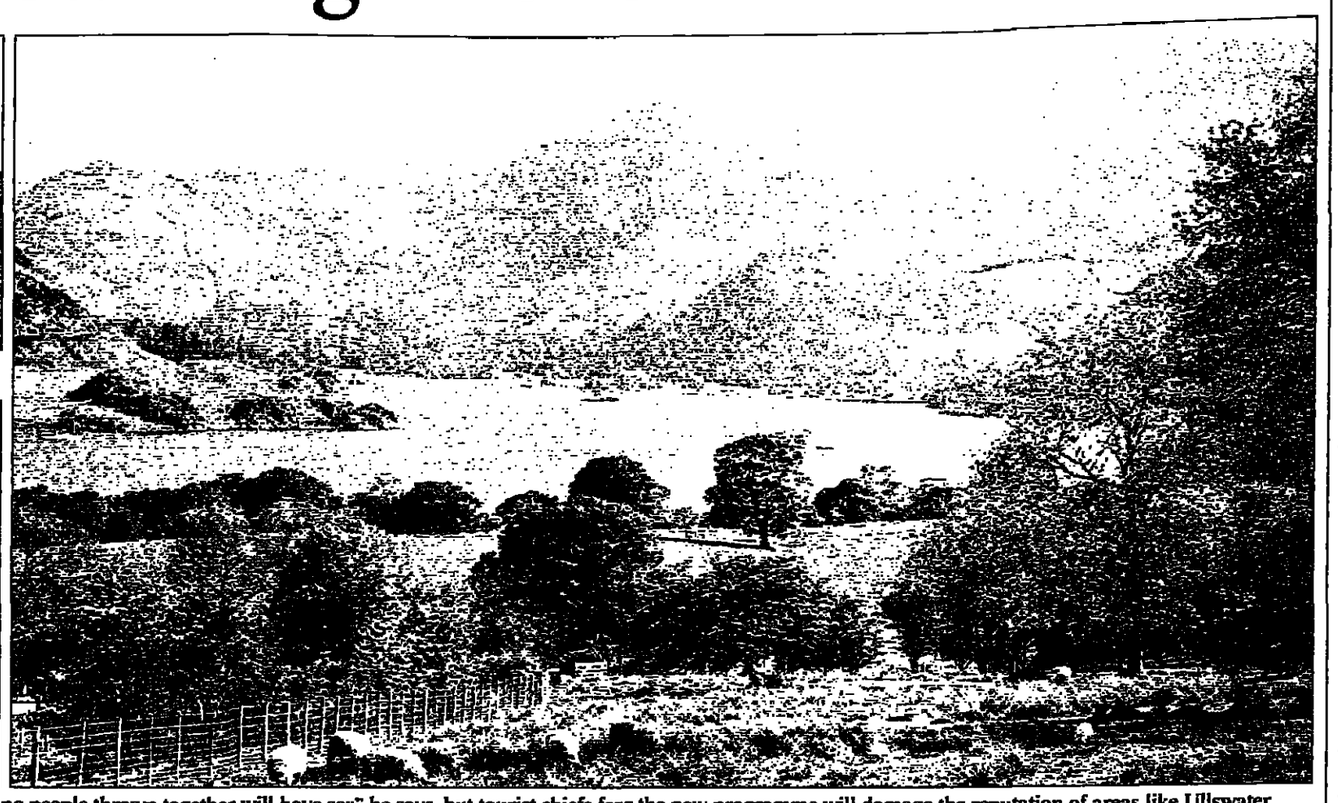
Love and loathing in the Lake District



The Prince of Wales Hotel where McGovern worked



Hotel staff Kay Wilson and David Humphreys. "Young people thrown together will have sex" he says, but tourist chiefs fear the new programme will damage the reputation of areas like Ullswater

Beauty spot fears for its tranquil image, writes **Russell Jenkins**

HOTELIERS fear that the genteel and romantic image of the Lake District will be shattered by an abrasive new television series starting tomorrow which claims to lay bare the "dark soul and sexual quicksand" of a small Lakeland community.

The Lake District attracts 15 million tourists each year to its manicured villages, placid waters, wild scenery and the peace and tranquillity cherished by walkers from William Wordsworth onwards.

Now the tourist industry is bracing itself for a squall blown up by *The Lakes*, a four-part BBC1 serial written by Jimmy McGovern, the uncompromising writer of *Cracker* and the docudrama *Hillsborough*. McGovern has now turned his attention to the adventures of a Liverpool "scally" — Merseyside slang for a Jack-the-Lad — in a small Lakeland community. The programmes reflect the writer's concerns with the grittier side of life, with graphic sex scenes, brawling, drunkenness and tensions between "offcomers" and locals.

The Cumbrian Tourist Board has issued a press release, headed *The Lakes v. the Lake District*, claiming the television drama bears "little reflection to real life". Boarding house proprietors have grown nervous at trailers wich claim there are only two things to do in a little village in the Lake District — "one is drink, the other, sex". But at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Grasmere, the 40-odd live-in staff recognise McGovern's fictional world as authentic but overspiced and dramatised.

Anne Cassidy, the assistant manager said: "They work very hard, long hours and it is a very intense life. They work together, they eat together and they sleep together. All the factors are there."

Martin Fletcher, the proprietor of the two-star Nanny Brow country house hotel on Windermere, is horrified. He believes that *The Lakes* will sully the area's reputation.

"I have seen the trailers on television and they have confirmed my worst fears," Mr Fletcher said. "They have totally misrepresented the modern employment practices and the kind of people working in the Lakes. It is a dreadful slander on the Lakes. Our head chef is a Liverpudlian and when he saw the trailer on television he basically went potty. 'I know I'm a Scouser,' he said. 'But hell's teeth, I am not like that'."

The series is produced by Charles Pattinson, a product of Windermere who won universal acclaim for his Bafta-award winning series *Our Friends in the North*. He said: "It is McGovern at his very best — hard-edged, witty, fast-paced, moving and life-affirming, dealing with his familiar obsessions — sex, gambling and death, Catholicism and guilt. *The Lakes* is a classic rites-of-passage story — a Britpop serial for the 1990s."

Scored by a Britpop soundtrack, *The Lakes* tells the story of Danny Kavanagh, a Liverpudlian scally, thief and inverterate gambler, who escapes the dole queues of Merseyside for life as a skivvy in a Lake District hotel.

Danny, played by John Simm, meets, chats up, makes pregnant and is forced to marry a local girl. All this takes place against a backdrop of frantic couplings between Danny's fellow workers and girls they have picked up, a headmaster's wife and the hotel chef and a smouldering liaison between a Roman Catholic priest and a member of his congregation.

The work is partly autobiographical. Aged 18, McGovern left Liverpool in the late 1960s to work as a hotel skivvy, porter and waiter in the Prince of Wales Hotel, now part of the Thistle chain. He was a failure at hotel work but remembered the sudden violence and the seething resentment between hotel workers and outsiders. Like Danny, he married a girl from the village.

David Humphreys, 20, from Cardiff, is a senior commis chef a the Prince of Wales. He says he does not recognise the brawling in *The Lakes*. There are no fights, he said, but young people thrown together anywhere will have sex. "It is going to happen wherever you go." When staff at the hotel complete their night shift, it is too late to go to the public house. Many choose to go nearby clubs such as the Wheel House and Starlights, in Bowness-on-Windemere, described despairingly by one hotelier as "the Blackpool of the Lakes".

Domingo Perdomo, the hotel's general manager, said: "Most of our staff are young, healthy, lively. Most important, they are away from home. The image of the Lakes is one of an over-fifties' paradise. It is seen as an older person's holiday destination. I think the Lakes will remain as they are."

William Hutchinson, the proprietor of the Ullswater Hotel, where the series was filmed, is relaxed about his establishment's new notoriety. He knows some villagers from nearby Patterdale are not happy and the local parish council is upset at the amount of gratuitous sex.

He cheerfully points out where the fictional chef and headmaster's wife took sex on television to new heights. "I saw some rushes," he said. "You had to shoo the bairns out.

"But it is the real world, isn't it? It isn't as bad as they make out — the staff carrying on. There are no drugs here."

Lakeland Lovers and full television listings in the new Vision guide

Jimmy McGovern: guilt, gambling and death

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Bogus' GP accused of assaulting patients

A man accused of masquerading as a GP for 19 years was sent for Crown Court trial, accused of 37 charges. Godwin Onubogu, head of Iketam Clinical Laboratories in Balham, South London, is alleged to have indecently assaulted seven patients and to have maliciously wounded five others. He is also accused of perverting the course of justice by posing as a medical expert witness in drink-drive cases. Horseferry Road magistrates in London sent Mr Onubogu, 56, for trial at Southwark Crown Court.

Driver jailed

A coach driver was jailed for 40 days after he admitted driving with excess alcohol when he had 61 exchange students on board. Portsmouth magistrates were told Kenneth Stewart, 47, who lives in Paris, had been drinking on a cross-Channel ferry.

Motorway relief

Congestion will be eased on the M25 next week when a £94 million widening project is completed. A 12-mile section between Reigate and Cobham in Surrey, which carries up to 100,000 vehicles a day, has been enlarged to four lanes in each direction.

Sergeant hanged

A detective sergeant was found hanged in the attic of his home at Conisbrough, south Yorkshire, by his 21-year-old son. Ray Tensley, 47, of South Yorkshire Police, was due to retire at Christmas. He was said by colleagues to have been severely depressed.

Surveyor jailed

A senior civilian member of the Metropolitan Police was jailed for 18 months by Southwark Crown Court for swindling more than £31,000 in overtime claims. Derek Peterson, a surveyor, of Upminster, East London, admitted six charges.

Real flames

A virtual reality driving simulator, hailed as the way to learn to drive, went up in flames yesterday. The expensive, computerised machine was destroyed when a short-circuit set the simulator on fire at the British School of Motoring office in Leeds.

Scanners scam

Police put out hoax messages about aliens over the South Downs to trap people illegally tuning in to police radio frequencies. When carloads of people turned up to see the extra-terrestrials, officers confiscated scanning equipment and warned against its use.

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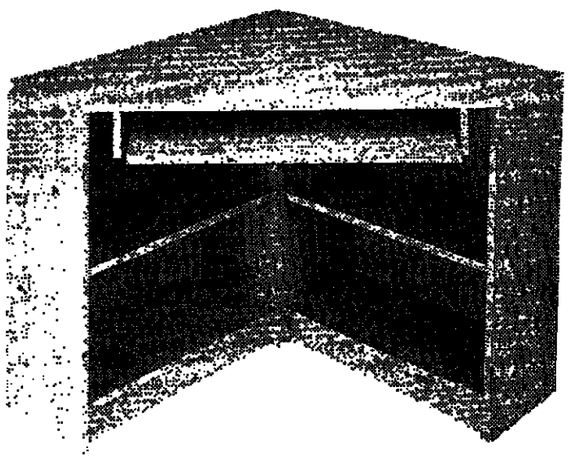

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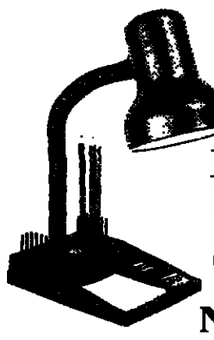

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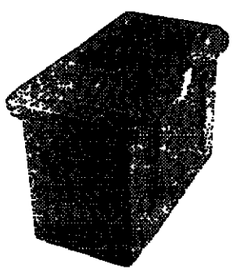

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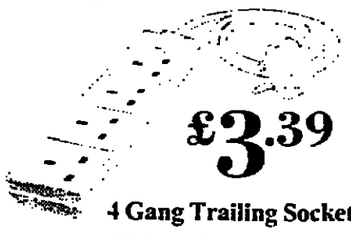

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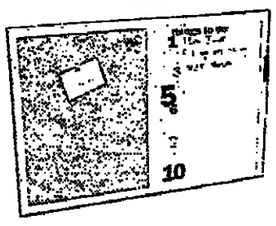

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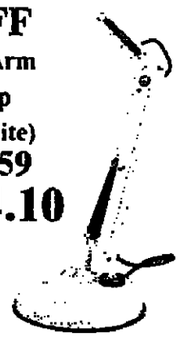

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Seafaring families find calmer life amid the storms

Libby Purves reports on the parents who believe a life afloat is the best education

YOU only hear about round-the-world sailing families when they run out of luck. Thus the Newman family rose to brief fame last month for being helicoptered out of a Biscay storm and the Schinas family of Chichester — rescued from a South Atlantic storm last January — drew gasps this week when they set sail complete with a two-week-old baby.

But you would never have heard about either family if things had gone well: not unless you read yachting magazines and club newsletters. The fact is that a scattering of families have been taking to the ocean for years without remark. You meet them in yacht havens of the Canaries and the Caribbean, tattered red ensigns at the stern, pegging out nappies, supervising correspondence courses and sending self-assured children up the dusty quay to buy yams in the market. There may be a newish baby, gnawing at a rusk tied to its shoulder-strap with a seamanlike bit of tarred twine.

There are no official statistics or welfare surveys on sailing nomad families: statistics and the State are two of the things they are escaping. Flight from society is a constant theme, although not all are as exaggeratedly hostile to shore life as Tom Schinas, who told this paper "a two-week-old baby is safer at sea than on dry land ... My children have never seen a classroom and have no idea what bullying and violence means. They have never watched television, used a computer or eaten a Big Mac."

Even those who plan to come back for secondary school show a robustly unapologetic style of parenting, at odds with our nervous age. They are throwbacks to tougher generations. Like the Brasseys, who in 1876 girdled the world on their schooner *Sunbeam*, with a paid crew, four children and two dogs. The baby nearly died of croup during a wild passage from Honolulu to Yokohama.

In 1928 an engaging Norwegian, Erling Tambs, set out round the world with his wife, Julie, and a dog called Spare Provisions. By the time his yacht, *Teddy*, hit a Pacific reef they had a two-year-old son and a baby. During the wreck he sat the toddler on a rock, handed him the baby and instructed him to hold it tight while he rescued his wife. Little Tony, writes the fond father, "took his duties like a man and never budged, even when the breakers washed over them".

In the early 1950s, Miles and Beryl Smeeton took their daughter, Clio, on their epic voyages: they were all seasick. She told Smeeton's biographer, "My father and I would trim the sails, steer and vomit amidst cries of 'Remember Nelson!' My mother made tomato soup." She did three hours of lessons a day. Certainly voyaging children seem to show an almost worrying confidence in their parents: "Mike told them the boat was safe," says Liz Saunders, who returned from Zimbabwe in 1972 with four under-tens, "so they believed it." In 1972 Dougal Robertson and his family were sunk by whales off the Galapagos and survived 38 days in a liferaft. Even after that, on the way home one of their ten-year-old twins grumbled, "I'm bored Dad, I wish we were back on the raft!"

Such steely nerves are not universal. For our own family's 1988 attempt at a three-month voyage with children aged three and five, we prudently chose a circumnavigation of mainland Britain, which enabled us to cover 1,700 miles without getting too far from the NHS. Even so, boatless friends said we were mad. Sometimes we nearly did go mad; family life in a cabin 10ft by 7ft is intense. You cannot walk away from a tantrum, send it to its bedroom, or hand it over to a granny or nanny. You have to solve it. You also feel morally and practically bound to compensate a child for exchanging nursery cosiness for a wasteland of grey waves. It takes love, ingenuity and tolerance. It is hard work.

But the good moments shine — the dolphins, the rainbows, the intrepidity of a three-year-old climbing 20ft of slimy, rusty harbour ladder, the crazy accumulation of family jokes. Children can watch adults solving problems rather than railing irritably at distant employers or utilities. Liz Saunders says that the details they remember now are things like their father contriving a paintbrush out of his own hair. "With hindsight I sometimes shudder, but I don't regret any of it." Another woman, off again next month, says: "At least you sink or swim together; you're totally committed as a family and a crew."

In an age of parental nervousness, semi-detached commuter fathers, discontented mothers and neurotic conversations about school league tables, there is something beguiling in the idea of steering your own family course. There are inevitable tragedies, but get through Biscay and the first gale and, with luck, a child might write one day, as Clio Smeeton did: "It wasn't boring, it was bliss, all the things that I loved most in the world were there — my dog, our cat, my parents and the boat ... the forepeak which always smelt cold, of chains and seaweed, where in the tropics a bunch of bananas hung ... the stern, a mysterious place of bundled books, bins of flour and sugar, and stores to last a year at sea. The bunk was too broad for me when I was little, so to stop myself from rolling about I wedged myself with Blue Bear.'

They finally sent her back to boarding school and, when she heard the news of her parents' dismasting off Cape Horn, she crossly wrote: "I've missed all the fun!"

Sailing, page 45

MARTIN BEDDALL

The Sims family, who spent a year afloat crewing themselves, on Cooper Island, one of the Virgin Islands, in April, and back at the Medway marina

New technology offers world to modern mariner

By Helen Rumbelow

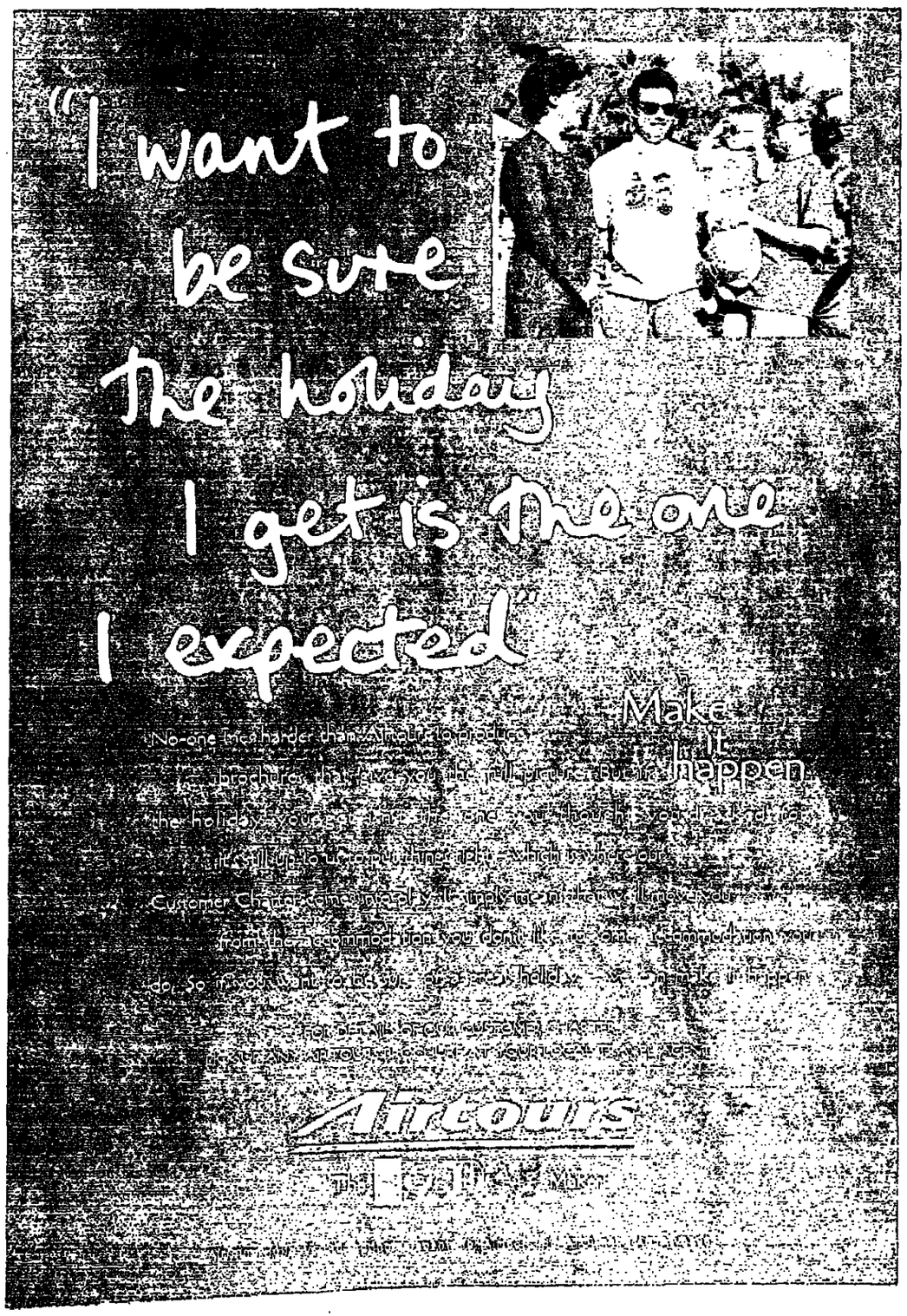
Doina Cornell grew up at sea

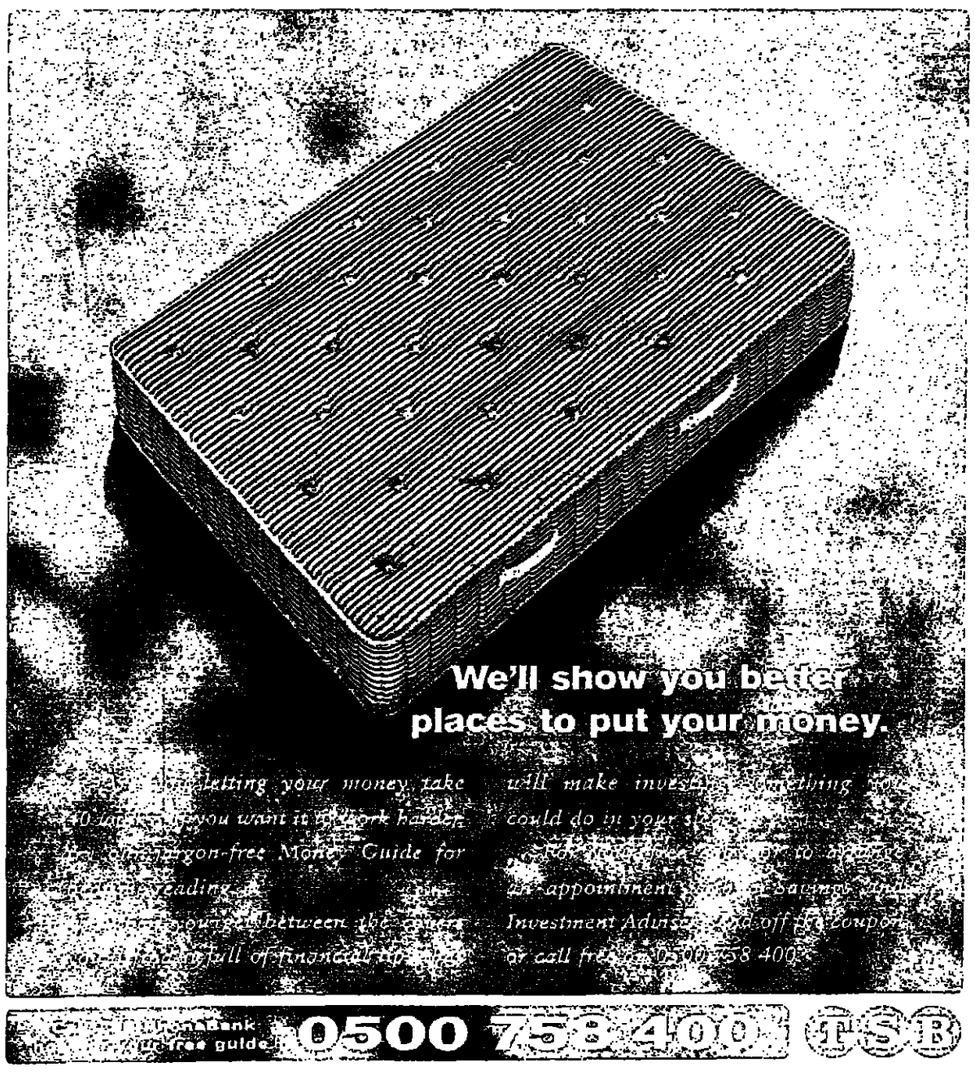
MORE families are sailing around the world thanks to increased leisure time and modern technology.

Boat sales are expected to rise sharply this year, with the British marine industry showing a record £2.28 billion turnover in 1996. James Jermain, editor of *Yachting Monthly*, said that new technology was the key factor. "Modern yachts have electronic aids, such as satellite navigation, and weather faxes, that can alleviate the fear of getting lost and running into bad weather."

Voyagers insist that taking their children to sea can be immensely rewarding. Doina Cornell, 30, who left Britain in a boat when she was seven and sailed the world with her parents and brother for seven years, said it provided her with an unusual perspective. "When you're growing up, every child gets a place they're attached to. Because I grew up on a boat, I got attached to the sea."

Matthew Sims, 45, felt stuck in a rut running his coach company so took a year off to sail around the Caribbean and the Canaries. He and his wife, Elizabeth, and their four sons aged 5 to 13 crossed the Atlantic to St Lucia, then sailed on to Trinidad and the United States, where they left their boat, arriving back in Britain last month. "It slowed me down a bit, and I have great memories of the time I spent with my children," Mr Sims said. "Educationally it's the best thing for them. My second eldest passed his 11-plus with almost 100 per cent. That was partly getting more confident, and partly that they had no telly and read a lot."





BRITISH ASSOCIATION

Children 'can lie as soon as they talk'

REPORTS BY NIGEL HAWKES AND NICK NUTTALL

CHILDREN start telling fibs early, researchers have found. They can lie deliberately as soon as they can talk, before they grasp the idea of truth and reality.

The lies reported by parents take many forms and are told for many reasons. They include hiding things and then denying knowledge of their whereabouts, and pretending not to know where commonplace objects, such as their pyjamas, are kept.

The results of studies carried out by Dr Vasudevi Reddy, of Portsmouth University, and Dr Paul Newton have disproved the idea that children need to pass a test of understanding before they can tell lies.

Between the ages of three and four, children learn that it is possible for the mind to harbour false beliefs. Before that, they tend to believe that the mind automatically knows the truth. Tests can show exactly when they pass from that naive belief to the realisation that minds are not simply a mirror image of reality.

The theory has been that, before this transition, they are not capable of lies, but Dr Reddy reported a study of 24 children which shows that lying predates the transition and does not alter in form or content as the children pass through the transition. "Children are lying, perhaps ineptly, as soon as they learn to communicate," Dr Reddy told the annual meeting in Leeds of the British Association. "By the age of two and a half to three, they are telling quite complex lies."

Dr Reddy relied on parents to report instances of lying because it was extremely difficult to test children's ability to lie in laboratory conditions. "Children in natural settings may do things because the setting provides a motivation and a 'sense' which is simply unavailable in the more abstracted environs of the laboratory," she said. Children's ability to recognise that beliefs can be false was tested by putting them in a room and letting them watch an adult hide an object. The adult then left and another adult came in and moved the object. When the first adult returned, he asked the child where the object was, and the answer revealed whether the child recognised that it could be somewhere other than where the adult believed it to be.

Children typically learn to pass such tests between three and four, and earlier experiments have suggested that, before that, they cannot lie. But in the home, very different results were found. Lying was unaffected by the child's ability to recognise false beliefs. "We found that young children who did not pass the tests also told lies, that these lies were of a large variety of forms and motivations," Dr Reddy said.

If a pre-nursery toddler tells a fib with a straight face, a left-handed person might not detect the lie, while a right-hander would, another researcher has found.

Dr Richard Wiseman, of the University of Hertfordshire, devised an experiment in which almost 5,000 people rang in after watching two clips of a Yorkshire Television presenter, Carolyn Hodgson, on YTV's *Tonight* programme. In one clip she responded to a question with the truth, in the other with lies.

Most people spotted when she was lying, but right-handers turned out to be better at it, exactly what Dr Wiseman expected. Among left-handers, 66 per cent correctly identified the lie, while 72.5 per cent of right-handers did so — a "highly significant" difference, Dr Wiseman said.

He guessed that right-handers would be better because they use the left-hand side of their brain to process language, while in left-handers the process is distributed across the brain. That should give the right-handers an advantage.

PROFESSOR URGES BSE INQUIRY

The new president of the British Association yesterday called for a *judicial inquiry into the* "disaster" of BSE. Professor Colin Blakemore of Oxford University, an expert on the brain, said an inquiry was necessary not only to apportion blame and learn how to avoid similar disasters, but to consider how compensation should be paid to relatives of those killed by the human equivalent of BSE. Professor Blakemore, who *gave up eating beef in 1987* when BSE was first identified, said that there was now strong evidence for a link between BSE and the new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease which has so far killed 21. He criticised the Ministry of Agriculture for failing to make more data on BSE available.

Air on a bee-sting: waggling tails and beating wings help to point the way to plentiful sources of nectar

Bees draw route map in the air

DANCING bees generate air flows that tell other bees where to find nectar, scientists have found. The discovery explains how bees that return from a foraging expedition communicate the location of nectar, even in the darkness of a hive.

Danish researchers have tested the system using a robot bee, consisting of a brass body and a wing made from a razor blade, powered by four tiny motors. Professor Axel Michelson said they had got up to 30 bees at a time to fly about 500 metres from the hive. "It is not as effective as a live dancer, but it demonstrates the communication system," Professor Michelson, of Odense University, said.

There have been many theories about how honey bees tell others where to find a good source of nectar. It was thought that bees learnt the direction and distance by watching a returning insect's elaborate dance, or that bees touched the dancer to gather the co-ordinates.

Professor Michelson said his team had proved that the waggling of the tail and beat of the wings during the dance set up three-dimensional flows of air which carried the information about where to fly. The air flow caused the antennae of nearby bees to waggle and these patterns were picked up by a sense organ at the base of the antenna, from where they went to the brain.

Professor Michelson said the air-wave communication system operated over a very small distance: "One bee-length away there is almost nothing. If you live together with 50,000 insects in a small box it is better to have a private conversation with your neighbours rather than tell everyone."

Elephants, in contrast, are able to communicate with others two or more miles away using infrasonic sounds, very low frequency waves similar to those used by the US Navy to communicate with nuclear submarines under the Arctic ice-cap.

William Langbauer, of Pittsburgh Zoo, told the meeting that the vibrations were made in the nasal passages using a membrane across the entrance to the skull. "With this the cow elephant can attract males from miles away during her amazingly short periods of sexual receptivity of only four days once every four years," Dr Langbauer said.

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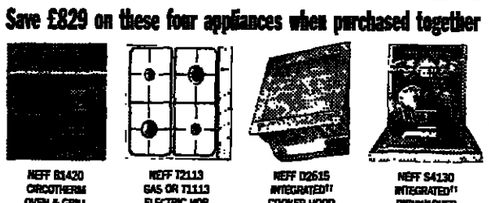

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Cities that curb cars make healthy profits

BRITISH cities would be more prosperous and enjoy a better quality of life if tougher environmental standards, mirroring the best overseas, were brought in, it was claimed yesterday.

Professor John Whitelegg, of John Moores University, Liverpool, said that there was overwhelming evidence from countries such as Germany and Japan that good environmental policies boosted economic performance while improving the quality of life.

"A study of 32 cities in Germany has shown that the highest levels of retail turnover are to be found in those cities with maximum traffic restraint," he said.

In Britain traffic-calming often consisted of the occasional hump or small pedestrianised area. But in Germany, city authorities have created huge car-free centres and banned or dramatically reduced parking. "Cities with the largest access for the car have the lowest retail turnover, the German study shows," Professor Whitelegg said.

Pedestrians reclaim the centre of Freiburg

The study merely looked at the benefits to shops, but the banning of cars also cut air pollution and accidents thus triggering greater economic gains. Hospital bills, for example, were reduced.

Professor Whitelegg cited other studies in Germany where 700,000 jobs have been created over the past ten years as a result of high environmental standards in areas such as recycling, water and air quality control and noise reduction.

A study by the Institute of Prospective Technology Studies in Seville, Spain, shows that, overall, 800,000 jobs would be created across the European Union if timber and recycled materials rather than concrete and aggregates were used in construction.

Professor Whitelegg said: "The Danes have also looked at this. They have calculated they can create 10,000 jobs and employ 27,000 people in the construction industry through a range of environmental initiatives."

The policies, designed to reduce pollution, boost the economy and help disadvantaged groups such as the elderly, include combined heat and power projects, energy conservation schemes for buildings, cycleways and urban forestry projects.

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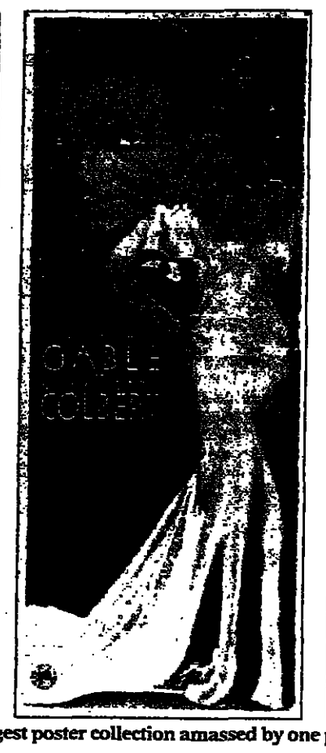
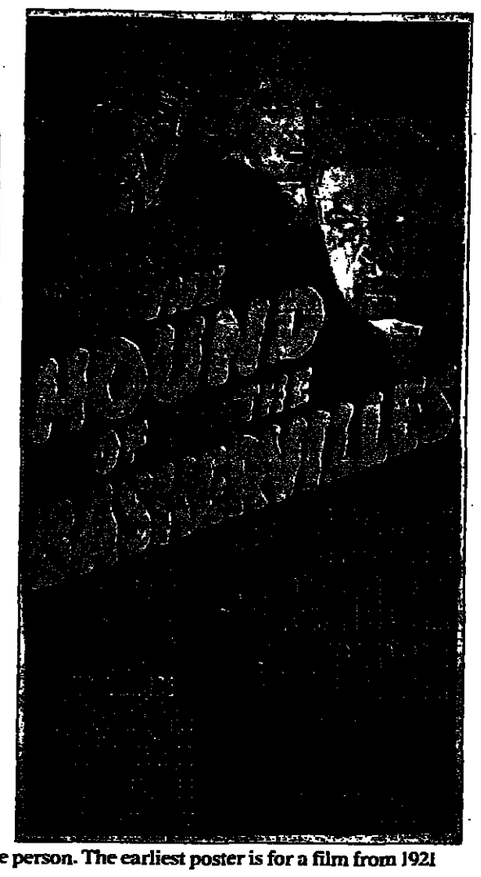
Cinema greats in the frame

Kathryn Knight on the sale of posters tracing cinema history from Valentino to Harrison Ford





Under the hammer: stars from home and abroad feature in the 300 posters to be auctioned, which make up the largest poster collection amassed by one person. The earliest poster is for a film from 1921

A journey through the history of cinema goes on sale this week in the form of the biggest collection of film posters amassed by one person. The posters, dating from the 1920s to the 1980s, trace cinematic tastes and disclose the marketing strategies of the big studios.

Many are rare, including a giant six-sheet poster for the 1942 release of *Casablanca*. All 300 were collected over 25 years by an American man who wishes to remain anonymous, but requested that the sale be held in London.

The *Casablanca* poster, believed to be one of only three in existence, is expected to fetch the highest price with an estimate of £22,000 to £32,000. The 81 inch-square poster was designed for particularly big cinema foyers.

The oldest poster in the collection is for the 1921 film *The Conquering Power*, starring Rudolph Valentino. The latest include the contemporary heart-throb Harrison Ford in *Star Wars* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

Posters featuring stars such as Humphrey Bogart, Bette Davis and Rita Hayworth are expected to be popular with fans. Others will attract interest because of the illustrators, including Saul Bass and Norman Rockwell.

Miles Barton, a film specialist who catalogued the posters for auction, said: "While great care and attention was lavished on the artwork for these posters, they were meant to be very disposable. The publicity machine was a fast-moving one: they were posted out, pasted up and then torn down and thrown out ready for the next set. Some of the these posters are special because of the fact that they survived at all."

Sci-fi classic: £3,500 estimate

Much of the artwork looks lavish compared with the photomontages outside today's cinemas. "We are so anaesthetised to the concept of clever marketing that it is easy to forget what a huge industry it was back then too," Mr Barton said. "These posters show how the British public were treated to a mass deluge of carefully targeted publicity with the release of each film. Often, film-makers produced different styles of posters for the same film. One style would be designed to appeal to one section of the public, while another would be drawn up to target another section. So, for example, you would get a romantic version for a small village and an action shot for a larger town."

A 1934 poster for *The Thin Man* has the letter D underneath the artwork, suggesting it is the fourth version. The only other known copy of the poster is in the Library of Congress in the United States. "Some of the posters are known as 'advanced special version' and were designed as preview posters to be pinned up a month or so before the film release. They would be replaced by new artwork once the film was on show." Mementoes of animated films are popular with collectors, and the auction will include a small poster for *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, the first full-length cartoon.

Also for sale are lobby cards, which were pinned in cinema windows. Among them is a set of eight for *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, signed by Audrey Hepburn, estimated at £200 each.

The posters go on show at the New Bond Street Gallery in London tomorrow. The auction will be at Sotheby's on Thursday.

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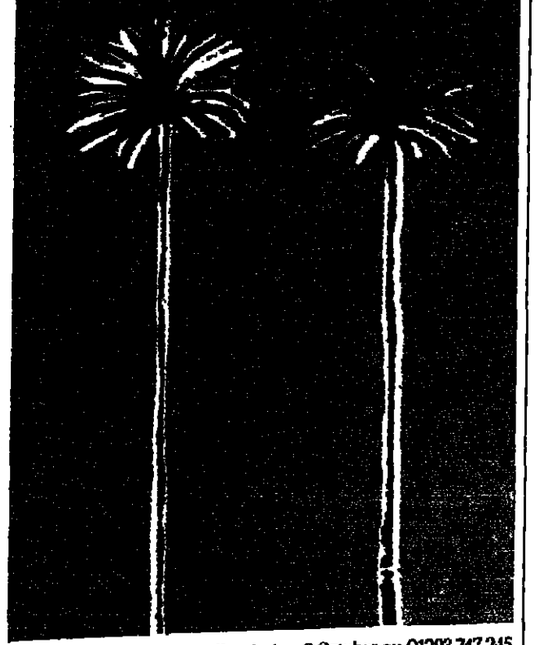

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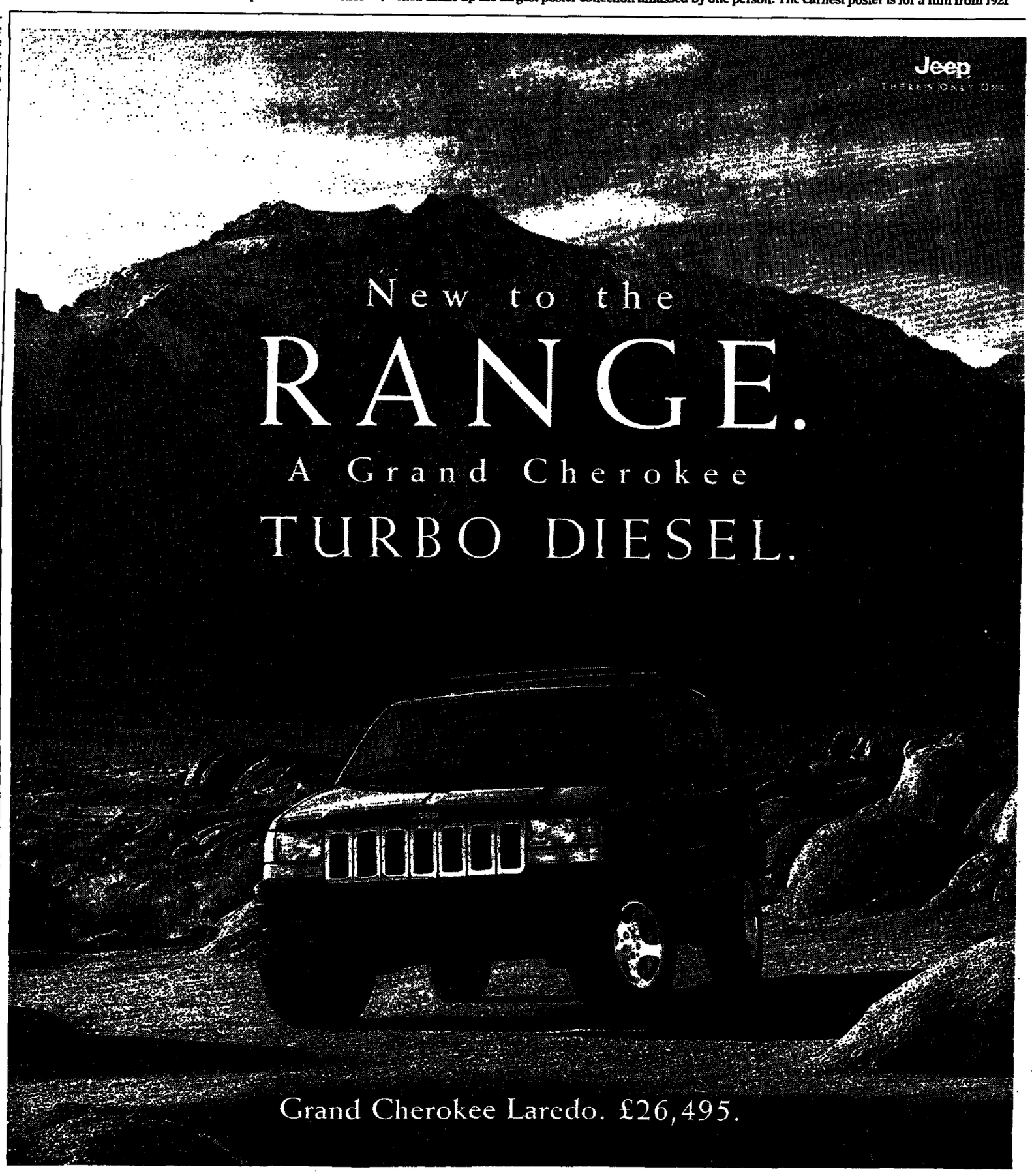

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Tattoos and tummies on parade as Miss America tries to get real

Contestants have been urged to be themselves, as long as they don't want to smoke or drink, reports **Tom Rhodes**

THE wholesome image that has kept Miss America a popular favourite among the country's older generation for 76 years is to get a facelift tonight when entrants will for the first time wear bikinis and sport navel rings and tattoos.

Organisers of the competition, in the gamblers' paradise of Atlantic City, have even allowed the contestants to play the gaming tables with Miss America commemorative chips. But the 51 women are still banned from smoking and drinking.

The pageant officials have been eager to advertise the break with tradition that will allow contestants to bear their stomach, wear modest sandals instead of spiked heels and, simply, be themselves.

All the women must do their own make-up and wear swimsuits bought from shops rather than creating their own eye-catching ensembles. The judges have been told to penalise entrants they detect as being "untruthful" to themselves.

The new rules have brought some much-needed publicity to an event that has been living in the past for decades. There has been talk of a new permissiveness and hip individualism, a hint of which became apparent while the contestants were going through rehearsals wearing T-shirts, jeans and pumps.

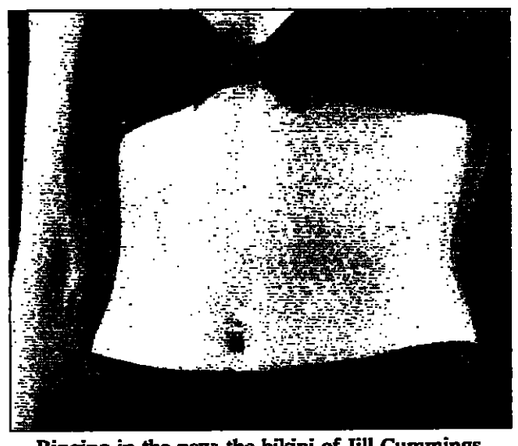
Much has been made of the fact that Jill Renee Cummings, an aspiring recording industry executive and amateur boxer, has a silver belly-button ring to show off with her two-piece bathing suit.

"Why am I wearing it? Just because that's me," she said. "I got my bellybutton ring long before I thought about getting into the Miss America pageant, and I'm not going to take it out to please anybody."

Heather Nicole Busin, Miss Pennsylvania, has found her platform of family literacy overwhelmed by interest in the small tattoo of a sun below her navel. "I love sunny days and the brightness when the sun comes out cheers me up," she said.

Despite these stealthy steps into the Nineties, there is no sense yet that Miss America contestants will be lurching into the new millennium wearing leather thongs and nose rings. The strictures for the swimsuit section are very precise: bikinis must have bottoms that drop no more than an inch below the navel and have sides no less than 2½ inches wide. Tops must provide full coverage, with straps at least half an inch wide.

Unchanged is the enduring insistence of the organisers that the event is not a beauty contest but a scholarship competition. They proudly boast that this annual catwalk is the biggest source of scholarship money for women in the United States.



Ringing in the new: the bikini of Jill Cummings, Miss Vermont, reveals her pierced navel

Leonard Horn, the pageant president, shrugged off accusations of political correctness and said that Miss America has been forced to recognise the realities of modern society and television of the 1990s.

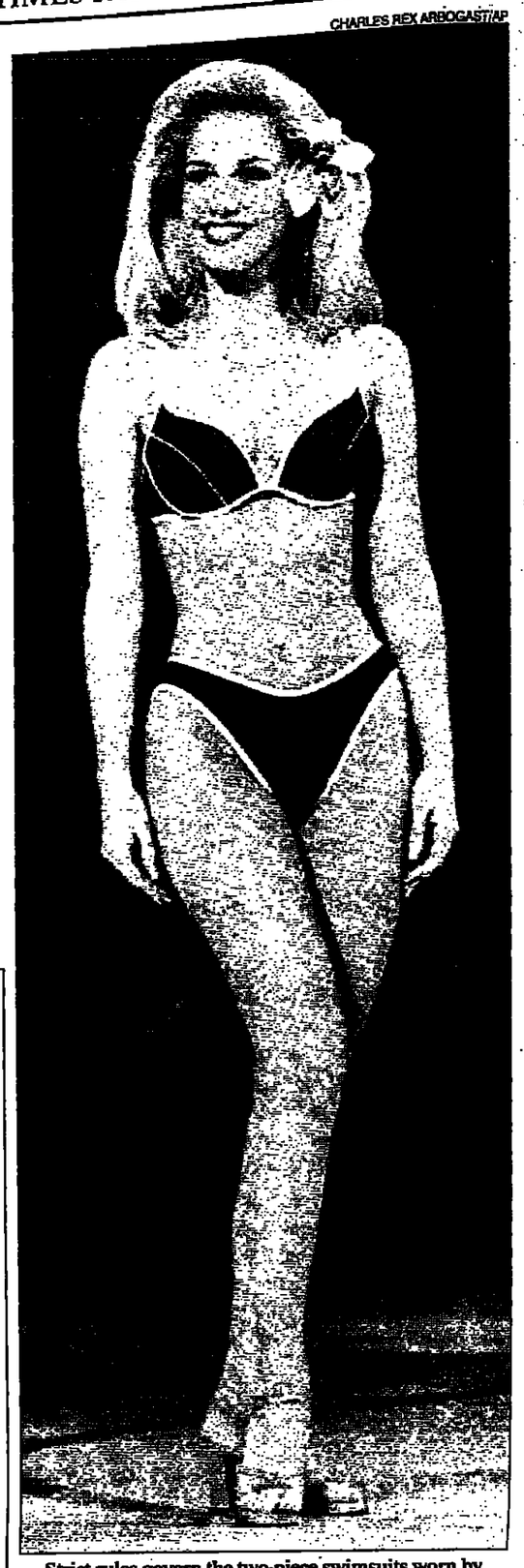
The competition began in 1921, the year after women gained the vote, and was originally seen as a commercial means to extend the brief summer season in Atlantic City. A religious upbringing was mandatory for competitors, whose skirted bathing suits and film-star glamour appealed to a devout section of the blue-collar population.

In the Fifties and Sixties, it regularly attracted one of the biggest television audiences of the year. Since then the audience has dipped and younger viewers have mainly tuned in to laugh at the archaic glamour of a past era.

A brief surge of interest came when Vanessa Williams, an actress and pop singer, lost the title in 1984 after *Penthouse* published nude photographs of her.

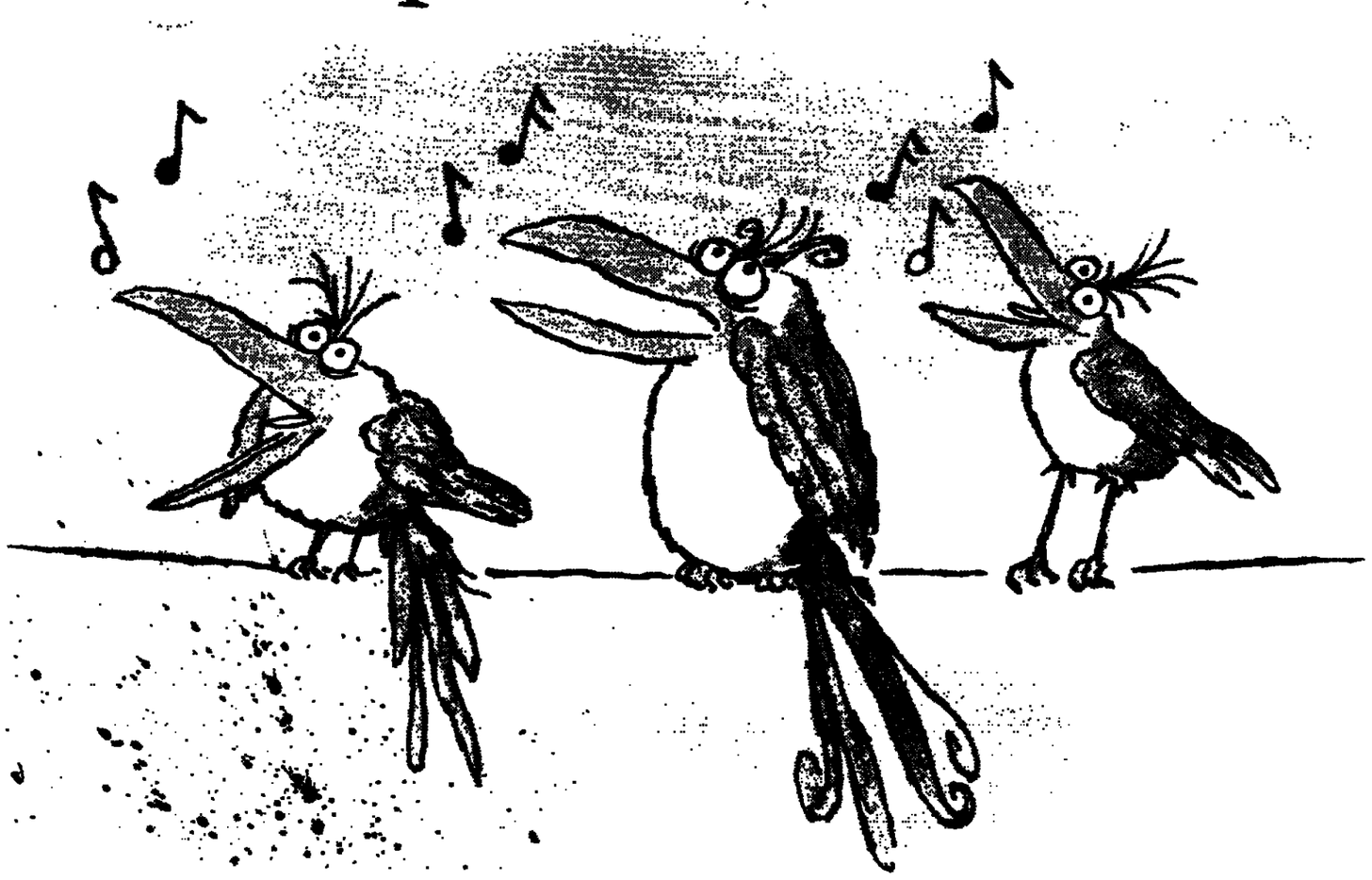
Mr Horn, who now subscribes to *Seventeen* magazine, hopes that tonight's performance will attract attention for more positive reasons. "It has nothing to do with political correctness," he said. "Society has changed. We now have the same uphill battle any other television show has to get attention. The only way this programme is going to exist, in my view, is if we reflect the real women who compete."

CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP



Strict rules govern the two-piece swimsuits worn by contestants such as Erika Kauffman, Miss Hawaii

At just 1p a minute, this September all UK weekend calls are cheep cheep cheep.



BT's Weekend Saver means that in September you can save 69% on national calls. So, at the weekend, phoning anywhere in the UK will cost just 1p a minute, the price of a local call. (The 5p minimum charge applies). For information on BT's discounts call 24 hour **Free***fone 0800* **003 800**.

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THE NATION'S HIDDEN TREASURES OPEN THEIR DOORS

Our architecture correspondent Marcus Binney makes a selection from thousands of historic buildings specially open this weekend. Opening times as given unless visitors are requested to book.

NORTH-EAST:
Middlesbrough transporter bridge, Cleveland, book on 01642 264115.
Brancepeth Castle, Co Durham, book on 0191 384 7641.
Bishop Cosins library, Durham, book on 0191 384 3720.
Newcastle Moot Hall, book on 0191 201 2038.
York Crown Court, The Castle, Sat 09.30-15.00.
Todmorden Unitarian Church, West Yorkshire, Sat/Sun 10am-16.00.
Bretton Hall, near Sheffield, book 01924 832024.
NORTH-WEST:
Chester Crown Court in the castle, Sunday 11.30-15.30.
Hutton-in-the-Forest, Penrith, Cumbria, Sunday 13.00-16.00.
Oxford Road Hospitals, Manchester, book 0161 276 8743.
Lancaster Castle, Sat-Sun 10.30-13.00.
Hidden treasures of St Georges Hall, Liverpool, book on 0151 707 2391.
EAST MIDLANDS:
Devonshire Royal Hospital, Buxton, Sat-Sun 10.00-16.00.
Sikh Temple, St James Rd, Derby, book on 01629 823 256.
Grimsthorpe Castle, Lincolnshire, book on 01778 591 205.
The Sessions House, Northampton, Sat-Sun 10.00-16.00.
Boughton pumping station, Newark, book on 01623 862 366.
Uppingham school, Rutland, book on 01572 822 672.
WEST MIDLANDS:
Bishops Palace, Hereford, book on 01432 271 355.

TONY WHITE

Regency House at 13 Brunswick Square, Brighton, is open 11am – 5pm on Saturday and Sunday

Holme Lacy House, Herefordshire, book on 01432 87087.
THAMES & CHILTERNS:
Cranfield University Library, Bedfordshire, book on 01234 754 448.
Highfield Oval, Harpenden, Herts, book on 01582 763 327.
Fanhams Hall, Ware, Herts, Sun 12.00-16.00.
EAST ANGLIA:
Mashams House, Ongar, Essex, book on 01277 890242.
Dereham Bunker, Norfolk, book on 01362 695333.
Surrey House, Norwich, book on 01603 683843.
Unitarian Meeting House, Ipswich, Sat-Sun 10.00-16.00.
SOUTH-EAST:
Airport House, Croydon, book on 0181 253 1030.
Camper & Nicholson's Yacht Yard, Gosport, Sat-Sun 13.00-16.00.
Sydney Lodge, Hamble-le-Rice, Hants. Sun 11.00-16.00.
Blockmills, Portsmouth Naval Base, book 01705 870999.
Medieval Wine Vaults of Southampton, book 01703 635904.
Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent, book on 01634 406397.
Procter & Gamble offices, Weybridge, Surrey, book 01932 896150.
Brighton West Pier, book 01273 321499.
SOUTH-WEST:
RAC Supercentre, Bristol, book on 0117 973 7373.
Tregantle Fort, Anthony, Plymouth, Sat-Sun 10.00-16.00. (Bring identification).
HM Naval Base, Devonport, Plymouth, Sat-Sun 10.00-17.00.
The Boat House, Hamworthy, Dorset book 01202 888992.
Cheltenham Ladies College, book 01242 520691.
Gloucester Cathedral Tower, book 01452 528095.
Partis College, Bath, book 01225 421532.
Library at Royal Military College, Shrivenham, book 01793 785762.

A chance to look at the heritage we have built

By Marcus Binney

OXFORD prison is among hundreds of historic buildings in Britain opening their doors free of charge to the public at certain times this weekend.

They include little-visited country houses, long-locked churches, town halls and courts of justice, merchants' houses, and spectacular modern buildings. Buildings that are regularly open also offer free access at certain times this weekend. Heritage Open Days are organised by the Civic Trust and the scheme extends across many European countries. London has its open-house scheme next Saturday and Sunday.

Towns such as Ipswich and Norwich now compete to have the largest numbers of buildings specially open for the weekend. In Liverpool, Manchester and west Yorkshire scores of unusual buildings open their doors, from pumping stations to hospitals.

Grimsby offers boat trips to First World War forts in the Humber (book on 01472-323421). The RAF base at Hemswell in Lincolnshire is providing guided tours. You need to take identification to get into Halton House, Wendover, near Aylesbury, an RAF officers' mess housed in a sumptuous 1883 Rothschild mansion (book on 01296-623535 ext 6378). Identification and is also needed to enter Tregantle, near Plymouth, an 1862 Palmerston fort. Himley Hall in Dudley, neglected by the National Coal Board, is now restored for exhibitions. (Book on 01902-326665)

In Coventry is the remarkable Cable & Wireless college by Richard McCormac, the former president of the Royal Institute of British Architects. The Portland building at Portsmouth University is the masterpiece of the RIBA gold medallist Sir Colin Stansfield-Smith, completed last year. Public schools on show include Wellington College in Berkshire, the national memorial to the Iron Duke, and Tonbridge school in Kent.

Flat shoes and torches are recommended when you visit Scots Grotto in Ware. In Bristol the RAC Supercentre, built to the designs of Nicholas Grimshaw, architect of the new terminus at Waterloo, is open (book on 0117-9737373).

At Brunswick Square in Hove, which includes the work of the Regency architect Charles Augustine Busby, more than 10,000 people are expected to visit demonstrations by craftsmen of bread-making, stone and wood-carving and the art of pole lathe-turning, known as bodging. The Brunswick Town Charitable Trust, which runs the festival, has been given a grant from the lottery fund to pioneer a computer

Busby: Regency work can be seen in Hove

technique whereby the pages of historic books can be turned at the touch of a screen, avoiding any damage to ancient bindings or paper.

Also on show is the Grand National race course at Aintree, where the stables and jockeyroom will be open (Sunday 10am-5pm); the Carlton Ballroom in Rochdale, ravaged by fire and now lovingly restored to its pre-war glory (Sat/Sun, 2pm–4pm); the *Medway Queen* paddle steamer at Rochester in Kent, a heroine of Dunkirk, built in 1924 and now being restored (Sat/Sun 10am-4pm).

A directory providing a full list of buildings, with opening times, comes with this month's *Country Living* magazine.

THE TIMES

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SCOTTISH DEVOLUTION: WHAT THE FUTURE MIGHT HOLD

Surprising faces on fantasy front bench

Magnus Linklater believes the revolution promised in Scottish politics will be led by some unexpected, but familiar, names

Mrs Rab C. Nesbitt (Elaine C. Smith) brings a touch of culture to an otherwise heavyweight fantasy front bench of Donald Dewar, Lord Steel and Robin Cook

FIRST MINISTER Dewar rises to his feet beneath the great steel and glass dome of the controversial new Scottish parliament building in Leith, and begs leave to introduce the first major Bill of the new session. The President, Lord Steel of Aikwood, inclines his head briefly, and Mr Dewar begins to outline the aims of the Schools *Curriculum (Scotland)* Bill, the biggest shake-up of primary and secondary education in Scotland since the Education Act of 1872.

"Mr President," he announces, "the aim of this Bill is little short of revolutionary: it will ensure that within the next decade Scottish pupils become the best educated, the best informed, and the most highly skilled in Europe. It gives me pleasure to call upon my colleague, Mr Robin Cook, to outline the provisions of this ground-breaking piece of legislation."

The year is 2001, and Scotland's parliament is, as promised, up and running. There have been more than a few hiccups, and a seemingly never-ending list of surprises. The first is Donald Dewar himself, who has persuaded the Prime Minister to allow him to serve as First Minister while continuing to hold his post as Secretary of State in the Cabinet. Both have agreed that this is a temporary measure, but it has proved useful in smoothing out teething troubles. Alongside him is Mr Cook, who has stunned his colleagues by opting to serve in a Scottish parliament rather than continue as Foreign Secretary, though perhaps the thwarting of his ambition to be Chancellor of the Exchequer may have had something to do with it.

Also on the front bench, three women from very different walks of life. The actress Elaine C. Smith, better known as the television wife of Rab C. Nesbitt, has been created Minister of Culture despite her nationalist leanings; Ann Gloag, the boss of Scotland's most successful new company, Stagecoach, has been persuaded to take on the transport portfolio; and Sheila McKechnie, director of the Consumer's Association and former boss of Shelter, has returned from London to head the Department of Housing. Watching all this with a wary eye from the Opposition benches are two unlikely bedfellows: Alex Salmond, of the Scottish National Party, and Michael Forsyth, who has surprised everyone by turning his back on Westminster (for the time being at least) and gaining entry to the new parliament on the Tory party list.

All fantasy, of course. There is no suggestion that any of these named here have yet been approached to serve in Scotland's new parliament, although some are bound to be there. But one thing that the double Yes vote ushers in is a period of fevered speculation about who is likely to stand and what kind of place this parliament will turn out to be. Mr Dewar is already the favoured front-runner for First Minister (as the Government's White Paper calls the Scottish Prime Minister), despite the fact that he will be 63 by the time the parliament is in place. Lord Steel might well relish the post of President, the equivalent of the Speaker at Westminster.

Mr Cook is a passionate advocate of reform, and could yet decide that his destiny lies in helping this great constitutional experiment. And it is the stated objective of all parties to ensure that the Scottish parliament not only has a high proportion of women, but is not dominated by party time-servers. The aim is to attract business people, charity workers, lawyers, teachers and others to lighten the mix and ensure that it does not simply become another House of Commons bearpit.

There will be other differences: proportional representation will ensure a better balance of parties; committees, open to the public, will take on a much higher profile role, particularly as there will — initially at any rate — be no revising second chamber. Anti-social working hours will be forbidden; sittings might only take place on one week a month; Bills would have two readings, not three; salaries would be graded rather like those of civil servants; the media would be allowed far greater access to information than at Westminster.

These are just some of the ideas for what could be a model new parliament — at least during these heady early days when anything seems possible. Whether they survive in the real world of politics remains to be seen.

The road ahead for Edinburgh parliament

AUTUMN 1997: the legislation required to set up the Scottish parliament is introduced at Westminster.

JUNE-JULY 1998: Scotland Act is passed.

MAY 1999: first elections are held for the 129-member parliament under proportional representation. Voters in each of the 72 contituencies, plus one extra because of the separation of Orkney and Shetland, will elect 73 MSPs under the first past the post system. They will cast a second vote for a party to elect additional 56 members.

2000: the first sitting of the four-year, fixed-term parliament in the purpose built building in Edinburgh. The Scottish executive, including a First Minister and a team of Scottish ministers, is appointed. Scotland remains part of the United Kingdon and the Queen remains head of State.

POWERS: the parliament will have legislative powers over domestic issues, including health, education, economic development, tourism, transport, law, prisons, environment, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, food standards, sport, arts and public records. It will continue to receive its share of UK public expenditure, the Scottish Block Grant, which currently stands at around £14 billion, but will also be able to vary income tax by up to 3p in the pound. However, Labour has pledged not to use the tax powers for five years of this Westminster Parliament, or the first two years of a Scottish parliament.

EUROPE: Scotland is likely to have its own office in Brussels and will be represented in negotiations in Europe; Scottish ministers may be able to speak for the UK in council meetings although UK minister will retain overall responsibility for negotiations.

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SCOTTISH DEVOLUTION: RESOUNDING VOTE FOR CHANGE

Margin of victory for double 'yes' campaign is emphatic

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

SCOTLAND voted decisively for home rule in the devolution referendum, with an unexpectedly large majority backing plans for a Scottish parliament with tax-varying powers.

The margin of support for constitutional change exceeded even the expectations of campaigners, particularly on the second question on tax. Three-quarters (74.3 per cent) voted in favour of a Scottish parliament and 63.5 per cent backed tax-varying powers. About 45 per cent of the total electorate voted "yes", so the huge endorsement would easily have passed the 40 per cent hurdle set in 1979 by a Labour MP, George Cunningham, when Scots last voted on home rule.

At that time, just 32.9 per cent voted in favour. Taking into account the slightly lower turnout of 60 per cent this time, compared with 63 per cent in 1979, the result showed a clear swing towards devolution throughout Scotland.

All 32 of the local authority areas in Scotland voted overwhelmingly for a parliament, and only two areas, Orkney and Dumfries and Galloway, at opposite ends of the country, voted against tax-varying powers. Even the old pockets of resistance to home rule, in Shetland, the Scottish Borders, Orkney, Aberdeen, and Dumfries and Galloway, and Tayside which rejected devolution in 1979, all supported the creation of a parliament this time.

However, the size of the "yes" vote on the second question, on tax-varying powers, was probably the biggest surprise. Opinion polls had forecast a close contest, raising fears of a "yes, no" vote, but on the night the support was unambiguous.

The strongest backing for tax-varying powers came from the Labour strongholds of Glasgow and West Dumbartonshire, where three out of four of those who turned out voted yes. These two areas also brought in the biggest "yes" vote on the first question. However, Glasgow also had the lowest turnout with just half the electorate bothering to take part in what had been billed Scotland's most important decision for nearly 300 years.

Those most wary about tax-varying powers were largely found in the areas which rejected devolution 18 years ago — the Scottish Borders, Perth and Kinross and Shetland.

There had been fears that turnout would be embarrassingly low, because of apathy or loss of momentum after campaigning was suspended because of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. But as the results came in early yesterday morning, it soon emerged that those worries were misplaced. The first declaration, from Clackmannanshire at 12.44am, showed that two-thirds had voted, a trend which continued until the last result from Highland just before 6am.

The turnout was high enough to give the Government a mandate for constitutional change. The "yes-no" results in Orkney and Dumfries and Galloway were the only signs of dissent on a night which showed the Scots' quiet determination to take more control of their own affairs.

At a ceremony in Edinburgh where he was presented with the final figures by the chief counting officer, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, said: "The people have spoken. John Smith's belief in the settled will of the Scottish people was truly justified last night."

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish Nationalists, said that Scots had won "a great victory for their country". Jim Wallace, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, said the result was Scotland's "vote of confidence" in itself.

Wallace: his constituency voted against tax powers

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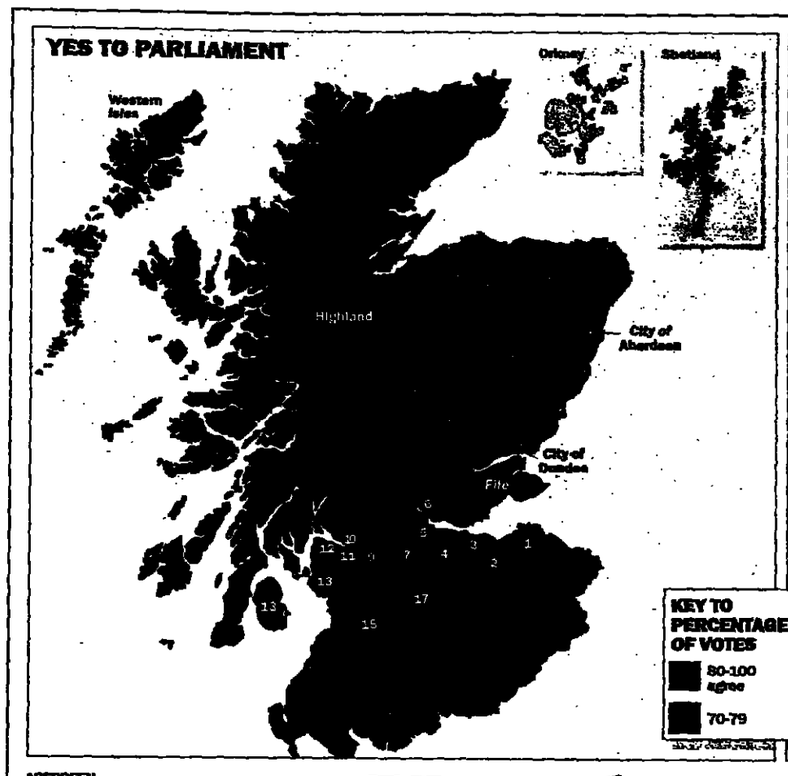

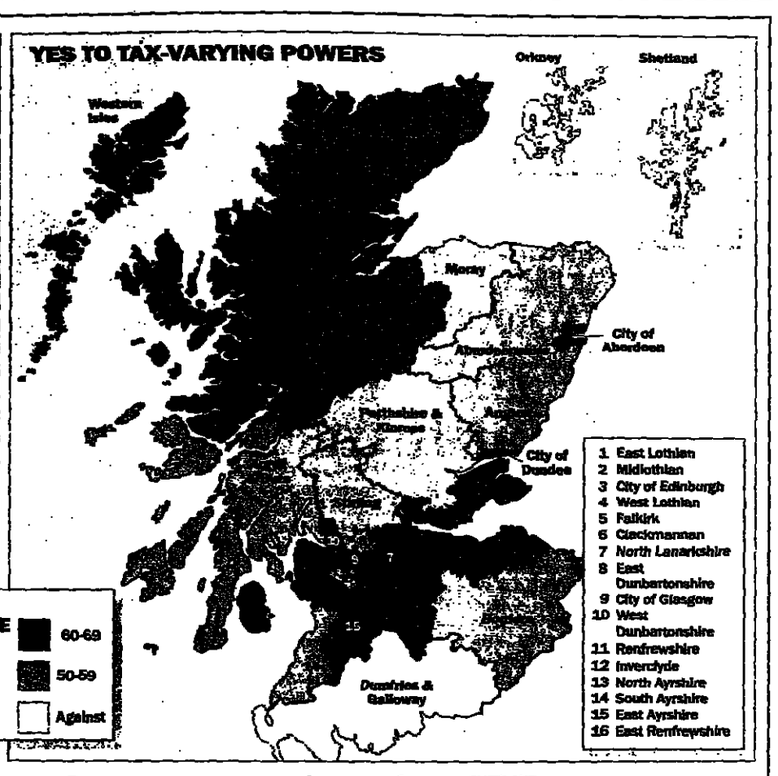

How the nation voted

ABERDEEN
Q1 Scottish parliament:
For 65,035 (71.77%) Against 25,580 (28.23%)
Q2 Tax-varying powers:
For 54,320 (60.34%) Against 35,709 (39.66%)
Electorate 169,683; Turnout 90,615 (53.40%)

ABERDEENSHIRE
Q1: For 61,621 (63.86%) Against 34,878 (36.14%)
Q2: For 50,295 (52.27%) Against 45,929 (47.73%)
Electorate 170,310; Turnout 96,499 (56.66%)

ANGUS
Q1: For 33,571 (54.66%) Against 18,350 (35.34%)
Q2: For 27,841 (53.43%) Against 24,089 (46.57%)
Electorate 86,582; Turnout 51,921 (59.97%)

ARGYLL AND BUTE
Q1: For 30,452 (67.30%) Against 14,796 (32.70%)
Q2: For 25,748 (56.99%) Against 19,429 (43.01%)
Electorate 69,995; Turnout 45,249 (64.64%)

CLACKMANNANSHIRE
Q1: For 18,790 (79.97%) Against 4,706 (20.03%)
Q2: For 16,112 (68.69%) Against 7,355 (31.34%)
Electorate 35,725; Turnout 23,498 (65.77%)

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
Q1: For 44,619 (60.72%) Against 28,863 (39.28%)
Q2: For 35,737 (48.50%) Against 37,499 (51.20%)
Electorate 115,204; Turnout 73,482 (63.78%)

DUNDEE
Q1: For 48,262 (76.00%) Against 15,553 (24.00%)
Q2: For 42,304 (65.50%) Against 22,280 (34.50%)
Electorate 117,101; Turnout 64,805 (55.34%)

EAST AYRSHIRE
Q1: For 49,131 (81.13%) Against 11,428 (18.87%)
Q2: For 42,569 (70.48%) Against 17,824 (29.52%)
Electorate 93,958; Turnout 60,557 (64.45%)

EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE
Q1: For 40,917 (69.77%) Against 17,725 (30.23%)
Q2: For 34,576 (59.11%) Against 23,914 (40.89%)
Electorate 81,025; Turnout 58,642 (72.38%)

EAST LOTHIAN
Q1: For 33,525 (74.19%) against 11,665 (25.81%)
Q2: For 28,152 (62.68%) Against 16,765 (37.32%)
Electorate 69,815; Turnout 45,190 (64.91%)

EAST RENFREWSHIRE
Q1: For 28,233 (61.65%) Against 17,573 (38.35%)
Q2: For 23,580 (51.56%) Against 22,153 (48.44%)
Electorate 67,363; Turnout 45,828 (68.03%)

EDINBURGH
Q1: For 155,900 (71.93%) Against 60,832 (28.07%)
Q2: For 133,843 (61.96%) Against 82,188 (38.04%)
Electorate 362,245; Turnout 218,732 (59.83%)

FALKIRK
Q1: For 55,642 (79.95%) Against 13,953 (20.05%)
Q2: For 48,064 (69.19%) Against 21,403 (30.81%)
Electorate 109,723; Turnout 69,595 (63.43%)

FIFE
Q1: For 125,868 (76.09%) Against 39,517 (23.92%)
Q2: For 108,021 (64.68%) Against 58,987 (35.32%)
Electorate 274,384; Turnout 167,008 (60.87%)

GLASGOW
Q1: For 204,269 (83.59%) Against 40,106 (16.41%)
Q2: For 81,359 (62.05%) Against 37,525 (37.95%)
Electorate 165,751; Turnout 99,982 (60.32%)

INVERCLYDE
Q1: For 31,680 (77.98%) Against 8,945 (22.02%)
Q2: For 27,194 (67.19%) Against 13,277 (32.81%)
Electorate 67,650; Turnout 40,625 (60.04%)

MIDLOTHIAN
Q1: For 31,681 (79.88%) Against 7,979 (20.12%)
Q2: For 26,776 (67.72%) Against 12,782 (32.28%)
Electorate 61,135; Turnout 39,660 (64.87%)

MORAY
Q1: For 24,822 (67.19%) Against 12,122 (32.81%)
Q2: For 19,326 (52.70%) Against 17,344 (47.30%)
Electorate 64,235; Turnout 36,944 (57.51%)

NORTH AYRSHIRE
Q1: For 51,304 (76.31%) Against 15,931 (23.69%)
Q2: For 43,990 (65.68%) Against 22,991 (34.32%)
Electorate 106,511; Turnout 67,235 (63.12%)

NORTH LANARKSHIRE
Q1: For 123,063 (82.55%) Against 26,010 (17.45%)
Q2: For 107,266 (72.17%) Against 41,372 (27.83%)
Electorate 246,704; Turnout 149,073 (60.43%)

ORKNEY
Q1: For 4,749 (57.29%) Against 3,541 (42.71%)
Q2: For 3,917 (47.42%) Against 4,344 (52.58%)
Electorate 15,579; Turnout 8,290 (53.21%)

PERTHSHIRE AND KINROSS
Q1: For 40,344 (61.74%) Against 24,996 (38.26%)
Q2: For 33,398 (51.30%) Against 31,709 (48.70%)
Electorate 104,138; Turnout 65,342 (62.75%)

RENFREWSHIRE
Q1: For 68,711 (79.05%) Against 18,213 (20.95%)
Q2: For 55,075 (63.59%) Against 31,537 (36.41%)
Electorate 139,269; Turnout 86,924 (62.41%)

SCOTTISH BORDERS
Q1: For 33,855 (62.79%) Against 20,080 (37.21%)
Q2: For 27,284 (50.73%) Against 26,497 (49.27%)
Electorate 83,674; Turnout 53,915 (64.43%)

SHETLAND
Q1: For 5,430 (62.38%) Against 3,275 (37.62%)
Q2: For 4,478 (51.61%) Against 4,198 (48.39%)
Electorate 16,561; Turnout 8,705 (52.56%)

SOUTH AYRSHIRE
Q1: For 40,161 (66.86%) Against 19,909 (33.14%)
Q2: For 33,679 (56.23%) Against 26,217 (43.77%)
Electorate 90,433; Turnout 60,070 (66.42%)

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE
Q1: For 114,908 (77.81%) Against 32,782 (22.19%)
Q2: For 99,587 (67.61%) Against 47,708 (32.39%)
Electorate 235,108; Turnout 147,870 (62.81)

STIRLING
Q1: For 29,190 (68.47%) Against 13,440 (31.53%)
Q2: For 25,044 (58.88%) Against 17,487 (41.12%)
Electorate 65,075; Turnout 42,630 (65.51%)

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE
Q1: For 39,051 (84.69%) Against 7,058 (15.31%)
Q2: For 34,408 (74.74%) Against 11,628 (25.26%)
Electorate 72,744; Turnout 46,109 (63.39%)

WESTERN ISLES
Q1: For 9,977 (79.40%) Against 2,589 (20.60%)
Q2: For 8,557 (68.43%) Against 3,947 (31.57%)
Electorate 22,733; Turnout 12,586 (55.28%)

WEST LOTHIAN
Q1: For 58,923 (79.57%) Against 14,614 (20.43%)
Q2: For 47,890 (67.27%) Against 23,354 (32.73%)
Electorate 114,836; Turnout 71,537 (62.29%)

Now the arguments can really start

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The hard part starts now. There can no longer be any dispute about the "settled will" of the Scottish people. But Thursday's vote was in many ways a continuation of May 1 — a contemptuous rejection of the Tories and an assertion of Scottish national identity and pride. It was not, however, a considered verdict on Scotland's relations with the rest of the United Kingdom.

Such questions were avoided during the referendum campaign because of the alliance of convenience between Labour and the SNP. To maximise the "yes-yes" vote, both parties ignored the long-term incompatibility of their respective aims of devolution and separation. But in their moment of triumph, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, and Alex Salmond, the Scottish National Party leader, now become enemies again. The clearcut outcome will undermine any attempt, especially in the Lords, to obstruct the detailed legislation this winter. The Tories have again been routed and their only sensible course is to try to make devolution compatible with continuation of the Union.

Several issues were left deliberately opaque in the Government's White Paper in July. The most important were the central government grant to Scotland and the number of Scottish MPs in the Commons. The proposed tax-varying powers are largely symbolic since 95 per cent of spending will continue to be allocated via a block grant from Whitehall.

There are likely to be fierce arguments between Edinburgh and London over the size of the grant. It is unclear from the White Paper whether the Scottish Secretary will, in effect, become an ambassador in London for the new executive and parliament in Edinburgh, arguing with the Chancellor and Chief Secretary, both at present Scottish MPs.

The other big question is over the role and number of Scottish MPs at Westminster. This partly arises over the anomaly — the so-called West Lothian question — that Scottish MPs will not be able to vote on education, health and other issues devolved to an Edinburgh parliament, but will be able to vote on such matters affecting England. There is no answer apart from Home Rule all round, which is not going to happen. The obvious political response, if not answer, is to reduce the number of Scottish MPs, particularly since Scotland is already over-represented in the Commons. If each constituency in Scotland and England had the same number of voters, the number of members from north of the border would fall from 72 to 58.

All the Government has said is that the number of MPs will be re-examined at the next review of constituency boundaries after the next election, but this would only come into effect in nine or ten years. There will be pressure for earlier action and a more precise commitment.

The size of the Labour majority in the Commons will both strengthen the reluctance of the strong Scottish faction in the Cabinet to make concessions and enable the Government to resist any amendments. However, the Scottish vote will have wider implications, not just for next Thursday's referendum on Welsh devolution but also for the still patchy constitutional debate in England. John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, has argued that the Scottish result strengthens the argument for regional government in England. And the proposal for a proportional system of election for the Scottish Parliament will reinforce the broader case for electoral reform.

The reverberations of Thursday's vote will not stop at Berwick or Gretna Green. Constitutional reform is now at the centre of the British, as well as the Scottish and Welsh, political agenda.

PETER RIDDELL

Welsh are urged to follow same path

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT

RON DAVIES, the Welsh Secretary, sought to capitalise on the emphatic vote for devolution and urged Wales to follow Scotland's lead.

He unveiled a new campaign poster warning the Welsh: "Don't let Wales get left behind." A leaflet urging people to vote in next week's referendum on a Welsh assembly was also sent out to 1.2 million homes yesterday.

Mr Davies led the final charge for a convincing "yes" vote as government efforts switched to Wales. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, on a brief visit to South Wales said: "We are seeing the emergence of a new Wales . . . putting the old fears behind it."

Mr Davies spelt out the government message in several interviews. "The status quo is not an option. Do the Welsh people really want a situation where Scotland has its own parliament, can take its own decisions and has the ability to speak up for itself in Westminster and Brussels, and yet we in Wales are left with the old ways?"

The Government proposes a Welsh assembly with 60 members, 20 elected by proportional representation. But the body will have no legislative or tax-raising powers.

Result throws lifeline to dejected Conservatives

New parliament could be a way back after general election rout, reports **Nicholas Watt**

SCOTTISH Tories tried to put on a brave face yesterday, but there was no disguising their dismay after voters emphatically rejected their warnings about devolution.

The scale of the double "yes" vote four months after the Tories were hounded out of Scotland has left the party in tatters. After years of dire warnings about breaking up the Union, Conservatives now face the prospect of having to stand for a body they opposed so vigorously.

Michael Ancram, the constitutional affairs spokesman, indicated a change of thinking yesterday when he said that the party would play a full role in the parliament, where it would concentrate on bread and butter issues.

Although he will maintain his assault on the Government's devolution legislation in the Commons, Mr Ancram said there was a "new dimension" in Scottish politics. Speaking in Edinburgh in front of a new blue poster carrying the slogan "A Fresh Start", Mr Ancram said: "Hopefully the parliament will not just become a vehicle for further argument about the governance of Scotland, but will actually go about the job of administering the devolved powers within Scotland. That means dealing with issues like nursing, education and health."

His remarks show that Conservatives privately regard the parliament as a lifeline to the revival of their fortunes in Scotland. The PR voting system means that the Tories should win about 22 seats in the 129-seat legislature, even if they achieve only the 17.5 per cent of the vote they won on May 1.

Conservatives made clear yesterday that they were determined to secure a strong presence in the parliamant. Sir Adrian Shinwell, a former president of the party north of the border, has already been appointed to draw up a list of suitable candidates to stand for the body. Mr Ancram, a Scot who is now the MP for Devizes after twice losing seats in Scotland, said he relished the challenge. "I have had ups and downs in my career. When you are down there is only one way you can go and that is up."

One prominent Scottish Conservative said yesterday that the party faced a formidable task because it had damaged its credibility by campaigning for a double "no" vote. Brian Meek, an Edinburgh councillor who is a veteran pro-devolutionist, said: "The Conservative Party needed another defeat like a poke in the eye with a sharp stick."

Mr Meek underlined the depth of divisions within the party by attacking Mr Ancram. He said: "I would be more encouraged if Michael Ancram would simply pursue his career as the MP for Devizes. He cannot speak for Scotland from that position."

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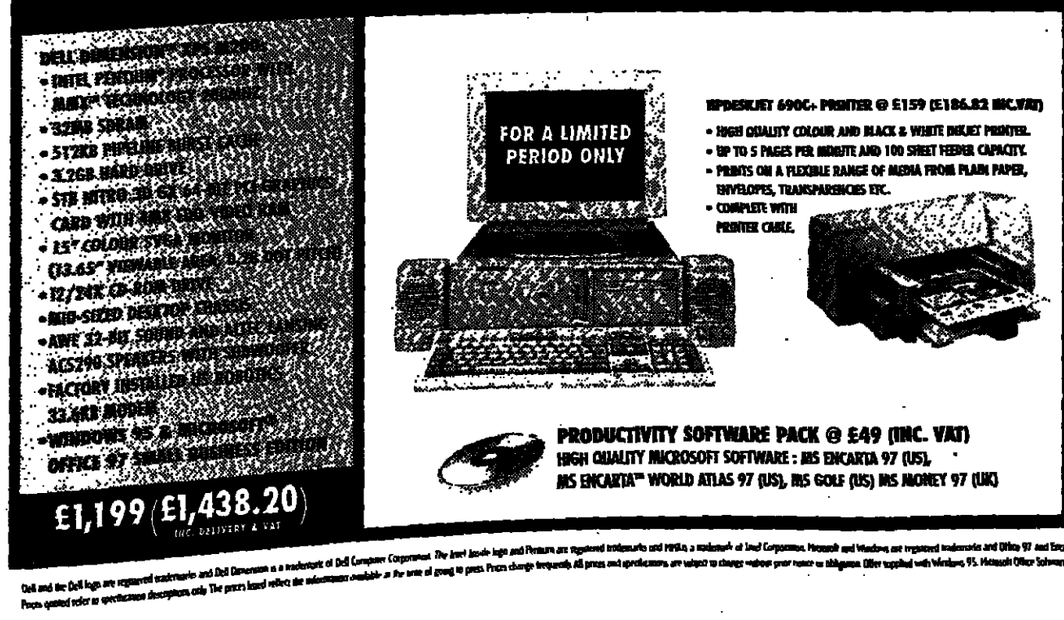

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TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S

NEW YORK

NEW YORKERS who do not like the Rev Al Sharpton — and that includes virtually everyone who is white — have a fat kitbag of complaints about this feisty black politician. These range from serious accusations that his views on race are incendiary, and that he frequently "forgets" to pay his taxes, to the more petty jibes about how he spends $1,200 (£760) a month to have his hair "relaxed" into a James Brown bouffant.

While sharing the first two, I must confess to having a soft spot for the paunchy reverend. Without the nimble Mr Sharpton, who walks the walk and talks the talk better than any politician I have encountered, the city's politics would be unutterably soporific, its atmosphere akin to that of a morgue on a slow day.

Mr Sharpton has just shocked New York by forcing Ruth Messinger, the front-runner for the Democratic Party's ticket for November's mayoral election, into a second-round "run off" on September 23. Ms Messinger, who has all the charisma of cold porridge, is reported to be distraught. The reverend, however, is floating on a sea of self-satisfaction. Shortly after forcing the second round earlier this week, he purred to the television cameras: "This is our day. This is our time. I can fly! I can fly! I can fly!"

On the campaign trail last week he showed a deft demotic touch in his grasp of civic issues. "Giuliani cut $1.2 billion from the education budget. Then he spends $200 million on new computers for schools and talks about what he's doing for education. That's like someone mugging you, taking your money and then giving you a subway token to get home... And asking you to say thanks!"

Mr Sharpton, you can tell, has been a preacher since he was four years old. He was then called the Wonderboy. He's now called Sharp Al. His autobiography, *Go and Tell Pharaoh*, was published last year. I have just finished reading it and there is but one way to describe it: auto-hagiography.

But the man now appears determined to put behind him the posturing, the diatribes, the racial rockets fired at "White America", that led him to be depicted as the Rev Reggie Bacon in Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities*.

"No justice, no peace," is still his battle-cry. Mr Sharpton is remaking himself. He will not win the "run off", still less become Mayor. But he is now a force that his critics — and that, remember, includes everyone who is white — would be extremely foolish to ignore.

Sharpton: a force critics would be foolish to ignore

Cold War turns hot

THE Cold War may have ended years ago, but the news has yet to reach the folk at the lifestyle supplement of *Forbes* magazine.

Over a drink at Mortimer's with Charles Dubow, the polished new editor of *Digital Cool*, an online magazine affiliated to *Forbes*, I learnt of the magazine's war with Tass, the Russian news agency.

It all began this month with an article by Mr Dubow on the perils of doing business with Russians, entitled "Great doing business with you, Grigori, and thank you for not killing me!". Tass fired off a missive to Christopher Buckley, the magazine's Editor, asking: Why does *Forbes* run negative stories about Russia? And why are there no positive stories in *Forbes* about Russia?

The waspish Mr Buckley's answer to the first question was: "If you think we're going to be mollified just because you tore down that wall, you've got another think coming, comrade." The second: "We had a very positive story all set to run about space station Mir, then you went and tried to kill one of our astronauts."

Dietrich's apartment comes with stolen ashtrays and piano

■ *MARLENE DIETRICH'S flat on Park Avenue in plushest Manhattan has finally been sold after lying unused for 19 years. The "4.5 room" pad was bought for about $625,000 (£393,000), a steal when you bear in mind that it has all her furniture and some of her possessions. There is even a big, pink four-poster. Other "fixtures" include her vast collection of stolen hotel ashtrays and a Blüthner grand piano — perfect for those who want to puff on a cigarette and sing a husky* Lili Marlene.

Abstract expressions

YOU have been warned. Do not read a book called *Abstract Expressionism: Other Politics*, a newly published tome by Ann Eden Gibson on American abstract painting.

If you do, you will need to wade through text like this: "The problem of whether sex is natural, anatomical, chromosomal or hormonal, and whether the sexes have different histories, suggests that perhaps sex has always been as culturally constructed as gender. This puts the terms 'man' and 'woman' in question, too."

And that is from the preface, the easy bit.

Guide dog foils trip to the pub

NOT everyone who stood outside the British Consulate here recently did so to mourn the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. On Thursday, Frank Perino, a blind man from East Northport, Long Island, stood in pouring rain with a plaintive placard.

"Why are blind people with guide dogs denied access to the UK?" it read. "There's something wrong with England. It's time to take a stand."

Mr Perino, 54, had wanted to make "the trip of a lifetime" to London next month, but was told he could not take Timber, his Norwegian shepherd guide dog, with him. "They said he'd have to be in quarantine for months before I could have him with me in England. I can't do that. They said I could get a guide dog in England, but they didn't seem to understand that guide dogs aren't like cars. You can't just hire them. It doesn't work that way."

He has cancelled his holiday and regrets that he will never get to visit "a real London ale house". He said: "I wanted to go to a pub with Timber and get to know some Londoners. But that's not going to happen. And you know something? If Princess Di were here, she'd understand my plight."

THE TIMES

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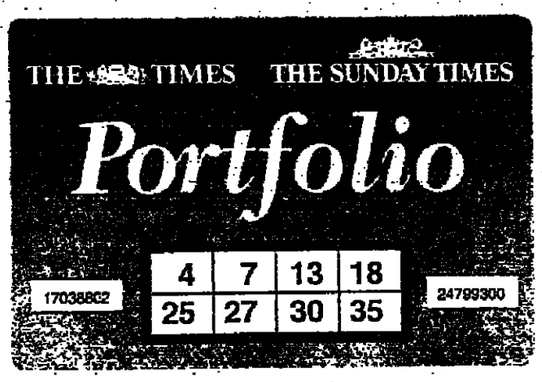

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http://www.the-times.co.uk CHANGING TIMES

Bosnian polls to dictate future of ethnic mix

FROM TOM WALKER IN SARAJEVO

BOSNIANS go to the polls today and tomorrow, in a $53 million (£33 million) internationally-sponsored attempt to restore the country's precarious ethnic balance.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is hoping the municipal ballot can kickstart the painful process of helping Bosnians to return to their old homes — ethnic reintegration is the much-ignored central tenet of the Dayton peace accord. Some 2.4 million have registered to vote, the majority living, and voting, far from where they resided before the war. But they will be able to cast their votes for councils in their former home areas. If they can help to elect friendly councils, some at least will be tempted to return.

Bosnians have little choice other than to vote for nationalist parties sworn to protecting ethnic interests. The Serbs and Croats stand to lose towns, and both have only recently dropped boycott threats. Serb nationalists face seeing their vice-like grip on Republika Srpska diluted by significant Muslim representation on some town councils, while the Croats may lose some strategic border towns altogether, threatening the security of neighbouring Croatia itself.

The OSCE, embarrassed by a mysterious 104 per cent turnout at last year's national election that helped to widen Bosnia's ethnic divide, has been desperate to find the right formula this time. "These are the most complicated elections, ever," David Foley, an OSCE spokesman, said. There are some 2,200 polling stations, with at least one international monitor in each, protected by the 30,000-strong Nato Stabilisation Force.

Embarrassing sideshows have tended to detract from the central theme. Journalists have wanted to know what will happen to war criminals — especially those on secret "sealed indictment" lists — found exercising their democratic rights.

The OSCE indicated there would be a two-day amnesty for anyone not publicly listed by The Hague war crimes tribunal, which said that the OSCE had no right to twist the rules. Wesley Clarke, a Nato general said he knew nothing of an amnesty.

Duncan Bullivant, spokesman for the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia, yesterday tried to calm troubled waters. "These are just two days in the history of Bosnia, two days in which people can determine how they are governed," he said.

Towns in the spotlight include Srebrenica, scene of the Bosnian war's worst massacre. The Muslim widows and children of those killed are determined to go back. Drvar, on the Croatian border, was once 97 per cent Serb but is now a garrison town occupied by Bosnian Croat soldiers. It could see its former residents flooding home.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Palin in the Pacific

MICHAEL PALIN, the actor, comedian and ardent adventurer, is the star speaker at *The Times*/Dillons Forum on Thursday, September 18, at the Westminster Hall, London.

For his latest BBC TV series, Palin and his team travelled through the amazing lands bordering the Pacific, and his illustrated talk presents the highs and lows of this epic journey.

Admission price for the forum, which starts at 7.30pm, is £10 (concessions £7.50), including £2 off Palin's book, *Full Circle* (BBC Books, £19.99).

Please send me ..... ticket(s) at £10 each (£7.50 concessions) for The Times/Dillons Michael Palin Forum on Thursday, September 18, at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1

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Mocking Helms blocks envoy's path to Mexico

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

IN an explosive half-hour diatribe, Jesse Helms, the veteran Republican senator, took on the White House, Democrats and leading figures in his own party as he refused once again to grant the Republican William Weld a hearing for the Mexican ambassadorship.

Repeatedly slamming down his gavel to drown out interruptions from his committee, and sarcastically imitating the Northern accents of his critics, Mr Helms said that Mr Weld had "not the foggiest notion of what he was talking about" when he said the refusal to grant him a hearing was "unprecedented". In the past ten years there had been 154 cases where presidential nominees for jobs in the Administration, courts or embassies had been squashed without a formal committee hearing, Mr Helms said.

Sheets of paper the size of bedspreads, carrying the magnified details of the 154 precedents, were draped from the front of the committee's semi-circular table. Gesturing at the lists, Mr Helms said: "I have a lot of company."

Mr Helms, a conservative North Carolina Republican, has used his power as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to block the nomination of the former Massachusetts Governor, a moderate Republican. He argues that Mr Weld, who backs the medical use of marijuana and needle-exchange programmes for addicts, is too soft on drugs to represent the US in a drug-plagued country.

But the row has split Republican senators, who see it as a battle for the soul of the party between a liberal, aristocratic northerner and an arch-conservative from the rural South. Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader who is also a southerner, has backed Mr Helms, calling on Mr Clinton on Thursday to withdraw the nomination.

The escalating row, which has turned the national spotlight on the Republican feuds, has delighted the White House, which believes it will win whatever the outcome. Moments before the committee meeting, the White House said flatly that "the President absolutely will not send another nominee".

Yesterday's hastily called meeting, which Mr Helms had tried to block, was forced on technical grounds by the Indiana Republican Richard Lugar and the Delaware Democrat Joseph Biden, both members of the committee, after he refused to hold a hearing.

As the committee gathered, Mr Helms shook hands with Mr Weld, joking, "Do you have your visa? [for Mexico]", moments before launching into his attack.

He accused Mr Weld of threatening to "begin war within the Republican party" if he did not get a hearing. "Let him try," Mr Helms said. "I do not yield to ideological extortion."

If the President chooses to step into a head-on conflict with Mr Helms, he could resort to a rarely-used technical clause for "recess appointments", allowing him to appoint Mr Weld to Mexico without Senate approval. Mr Weld could then serve only for one year.

Author questions Clinton aide death

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE DEATH of Vincent Fosterreturned yesterday to haunt America's First Family in a new book refuting all official claims that the former deputy White House counsel killed himself in a park outside Washington.

An investigation by Chris Ruddy, a journalist who has devoted his career to Foster's death since he was found dead in Fort Marcy Park in July 1993, claims the Clinton confidant could not have driven to Virginia before shooting himself.

The Strange Death of Vincent Foster, to be published later this month, comes seven months after Kenneth Starr, the independent Whitewater prosecutor, ruled that the deputy counsel could not have been murdered and that his death was not the subject of a cover-up.

Foster is purported to have killed himself with a .38 Colt Army service revolver, but evidence indicates that he never owned such a gun, that no blood, blowback or fingerprints were visible on the weapon and that the fired bullet was never found. Independent forensic scientists have concluded to Mr Ruddy that the drainage of blood from Foster's mouth and nose strongly suggested that his heart had stopped beating before the shot was fired.

Mr Ruddy also details the fact that Foster's car keys, never found in either his pocket or car at the scene, suddenly appeared later among his effects at the hospital morgue.

Foster: "heart stopped before shot was fired"

MEGAN LEWIS : REUTERS

Hors d'oeuvre: Anthony Jackson puts his horse through its paces yesterday at a preview in Sydney of the Royal Lipizzaner Stallions' tour of Australia

Poison trap laid for coyotes

New York: Tens of thousands of coyotes across America face death by poisoning after the Administration announced emergency plans to cull their numbers (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

The move follows pressure from the sheep farming industry, which last year alone lost $35 million (£22 million) worth of animals to the coyote.

Coyotes are treated as a menace in America. Each year they are shot, trapped, bludgeoned, snared, strangled and electrocuted. A total of 82,261 coyotes were killed last year and more than 683,000 since 1990. Yet their numbers keep rising and their hunting grounds have spread beyond the arid west to such places as New England and Florida.

The new campaign is only aimed at coyotes which attack sheep. Those which prey on rabbits and rodents will be unaffected. Sheep collars laced with Compound 1080, a potent toxin, are being rushed to Oregon and northern California, the worst-affected areas.

Environmentalists fear that the poison will enter the food-chain. They say poisoned coyotes could decompose near streams or rivers, contaminating the water supply.

Federal officials argue that the poison will be used in such small quantities there will be no danger. They say tests have shown that the water supply will not be spoiled.

Cubans claim bomb suspect confesses

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

ACCUSATIONS by the Cuban Government of a bomb plot by Miami exiles and Central American death squads linked to drug trafficking seem to be unravelling days after Cuba announced the arrest of an alleged Salvadorean mercenary.

The Interior Ministry said that the man being held, Raúl Cruz León, is a former US-trained Salvadorean ex-serviceman in the pay of the Cuban American National Foundation, a wealthy group of Cuban exiles in Miami.

Cuban officials said that Mr Cruz León made a videotaped confession in which he said that he had been hired abroad and had planted at least six bombs, including one in a hotel lobby last week which exploded, killing an Italian businessman. He was arrested after allegedly placing the last of four bombs a week last Thursday. The police say that traces of C-4 plastic explosive were found on his hands and fingernails and in a haversack.

The Cuban version is being challenged by American and Salvadorean official sources, as well as by Miami exiles and Mr Cruz León's family.

American officials say they are investigating any Miami link to the bombings, but complain that Havana has provided no credible evidence. The Salvadorean army said that Mr Cruz León dropped out of military academy after only eight months and was never more than a cadet. The US military also denied that he had undergone weapons and explosives training at Fort Benning, Georgia, as Cuba claims.

His family said that Mr Cruz León worked for a Salvadorean entertainment company and had travelled to Cuba on holiday with Cuban friends working with a Cuban circus. "What they are saying about Raul is false," his sister Yanira Cruz León said.

The Cuban American National Foundation has denied any link to the bombings, although it openly supports "any act of internal rebellion".

WORLD SUMMARY

New fund for Nazis' victims

Brussels: Britain, the United States and France yesterday proposed setting up a new fund to aid directly an estimated 350,000 survivors of the Holocaust.

The kernel of the fund will be the £37.4 million worth of gold bars still held by the Tripartite Gold Commission set up after the war to distribute to central banks bullion that had been looted by the Nazis. However the commission admitted that some of this gold included items stolen from individuals and resmelted. *(Reuters)*

Mine treaty hitch

America will not sign the treaty banning the use of all anti-personnel landmines unless the draft is changed, a US negotiator at the Oslo conference said (Michael Binyon writes). America was still committed to a ban that recognised its global security responsibilities, he said.

Girl sold for sex

Brisbane: The parents of a girl aged 11 were jailed for 12 years for selling their daughter for £10 to an elderly man for sex at his home. The man, 67, was also jailed for 12 years. *(Reuter)*

Rao for trial

Delhi: P.V. Narasimha Rao, India's former Prime Minister, faces trial on charges arising from a 1993 confidence vote in which four MPs were allegedly paid £500,000 to support his Government. *(AP)*

Aids toll falls

Washington: Aids deaths have shown a big decline in America, increasing hopes that the epidemic is being slowed by prevention and new drugs. Deaths last years were down by 26 per cent.

Ned Kelly claim

Brisbane: Descendants of two Aboriginal trackers who never received their reward for helping to capture Ned Kelly, the outlaw, lost a court action for A$84 million (£37 million) compensation. *(Reuters)*

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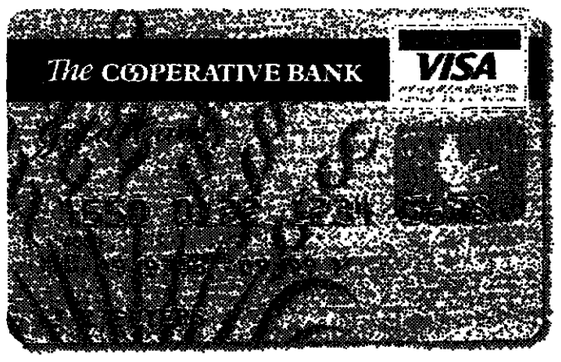

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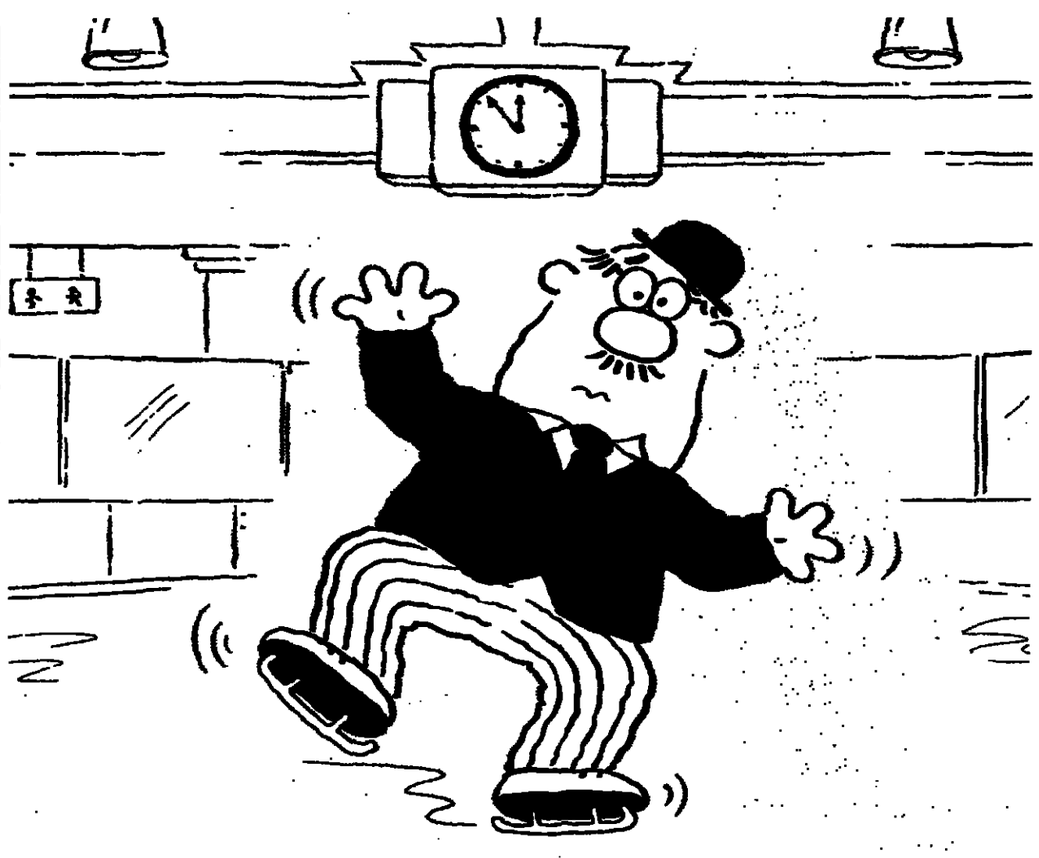

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Revenue

Self Assessment - a clearer tax system

Puccini fight as old score is settled

Richard Owen, in Viareggio, finds that a 20-year legal fight has not weakened the resolve of Puccini's granddaughter

SIMONETTA Puccini, the granddaughter of the Italian composer, is launching a campaign to save his crumbling villas at the Tuscan resort of Viareggio, where *La Boheme*, *Manon Lescaut* and *Turandot* were created.

In June Signora Puccini, 68, completed a 20-year legal battle to prove her right to the composer's inheritance, including his lakeside villa at Torre del Lago, outside Viareggio, and his birthplace at Lucca. But after years of neglect the Torre del Lago villa is in serious disrepair, and prey to thieves and vandals.

Moreover, Signora Puccini was not awarded the third dilapidated Puccini property — his town house on Piazza Puccini near the seafront at Viareggio, which is in danger of being auctioned off to become a discotheque or a block of flats. She hopes to raise funds to run all three villas into a "Puccini trail", with concerts, shops and high tech exhibits "to make the magic of the maestro come alive again".

Puccini's legacy after his death in 1924 was complicated by the fact that he had what *Il Messaggero* this week called "an exuberant love life". But Signora Puccini was able to prove a direct line of descent; although her father, Antonio, was born before Puccini married her grandmother Elvira, "he was always a Puccini and had the Puccini name ... My grandfather was a man of enormous fascination and charm, although he was also vulnerable and occasionally melancholy". Signora Puccini is irritated by suggestions that Puccini was a Bohemian lady's man, like a character in one of his operas. "He worked very hard."

Signora Puccini was the product of a liaison between Antonio and Maria, "a reserved and shy teacher" from Milan (often wrongly described as a ballet dancer). Antonio later married another woman, Rita Dell'Anna, but Antonio "always took an interest in me as his daughter". When Antonio died in 1946, she was recognised as a "natural daughter" entitled to part of the legacy, but it took her until 1974 to prove in law that she was entitled to the name Puccini, and another 23 years to get the villas. She has founded the Puccini Institute in Milan, which publishes letters and documents relating to the composer, and an "Association of The Friends of the Puccini Houses".

But despite her victory, Signora Puccini has no access to the house in Viareggio where her grandfather lived from 1921 until his death, and which she often visited as a child. Her summer home in Viareggio (she lives mainly in Milan) is tantalisingly close: it is Puccini's chauffeur's former flat above the garage next to the house (Puccini was a keen motorist). The house, built in Oriental style to recall *Turandot* (which was written there) is falling down. "We need one and a half million pounds to buy it, and even more to restore it," she said. The wooden balustrades are broken, bars covering the windows are twisted, and the garden is overgrown. "My grandfather loved the house in every detail. I remember as a child a marvellous garden full of gardenias and rhododendrons. It is all gone." Over three miles away, is the villa where Puccini lived and composed from 1899-21, and where he is buried.

Puccini: complications of "exuberant love life"

CHRIS WARDE-JONES

Simonetta Puccini, granddaughter of the composer, has won her legal battle but is now fighting to save his villas, including the one at Torre del Lago, above and right

The Puccini Festival is held nearby every summer, with seating for three thousand. The villa is a place of pilgrimage: even the streets of Torre del Lago are named after Puccini operas. Visitors can see Puccini's death mask, the chapel where he is buried, the gun room, with Puccini's rifles, hunting boots and stuffed birds, and the card table in the drawing room were his friends played noisily while he composed at the piano. But the cluttered rooms are marred by rising damp, the windows are broken and ill-fitting, and there have been several robberies, with photographs, Tiffany lamps, antique furniture, and even the inkwell of Puccini's desk stolen. Side rooms next to the family mausoleum are full of discarded artefacts, and the walls are peeling. Signora Puccini hopes to renovate the villa and open it "to all lovers of Puccini".

Her restoration plans may be held up, however, not only by lack of funds, but also by the revelation this week that the former caretaker at the Torre del Lago villa, Giacomo Giovannoni, 44, whom she dismissed when she took it over in July, also claims descent from the composer, and may contest the villa's ownership.

Outcry in France at illegally sterilised women

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

AN investigation has been launched into reports that 15,000 Frenchwomen have been illegally sterilised without their consent after being ruled mentally unfit for motherhood.

The women aged under 45 were sterilised by state-run insititutions responsible for their care and often at the request of their parents, according to a report in the investigative weekly *Charlie-Hebdo*. Under French law sterilisation without consent is illegal in all but a handful of cases, and the French Social Affairs Ministry this week launched an inquiry into the allegations.

The report was based on research by Nicole Diederich, France's foremost expert on mental retardation. She claimed that the rate of involuntary sterilisation has accelerated in France over the past two decades and is now commonly practised in psychiatric hospitals.

One third of the women sterilised were selected for the operation simply because they were "lightly retarded, with insufficient IQs", she claimed. Many were allegedly told they were undergoing a routine operation and some remain unaware that they cannot have children.

The report was published following the recent scandal over forced sterilisation of women in Sweden, which received wide and shocked coverage in France.

The research was immediately challenged by the French Order of Doctors on the basis that Mme Diederich could not have obtained the statistics without violating strict French rules governing medical secrecy. The group did not deny that sterilisations had been performed, but insisted the practice was used "only in isolated cases" and for overriding medical reasons such as when a woman's life would be endangered by pregnancy.

Mme Deiderich said the figure of 15,000 was an estimate based on available data in the Gironde region, and she called for a full inquiry into how many female patients in French psychiatric institutions, currently numbering more than 40,000, had been sterilised without their knowledge or consent.

The National Union of Associations of Parents and Friends condemned forced sterilisation as a means of birth control but conceded that some parents, on the advice of doctors, "may have resorted to such a practice in certain cases".

Smiles but little joy greet prospect of euro's punctual birth

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN MONDORF, LUXEMBOURG

AFTER years of anguish over the Maastricht criteria for monetary union, Europe's finance ministers had reason to smile when they turned up at this spa town last night to start work on the end-game for the launch of the euro.

Thanks to economic recovery and tough fiscal medicine, France and Germany as well as half a dozen other EU states now seem well-placed to pass the 1997 budget test to win entry to the euro club next May. Bonn and Paris have this week delivered optimistic forecasts of their readiness to qualify. Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, has also just confirmed his determination to put the euro ahead of the Socialist pledges made during last spring's election campaign.

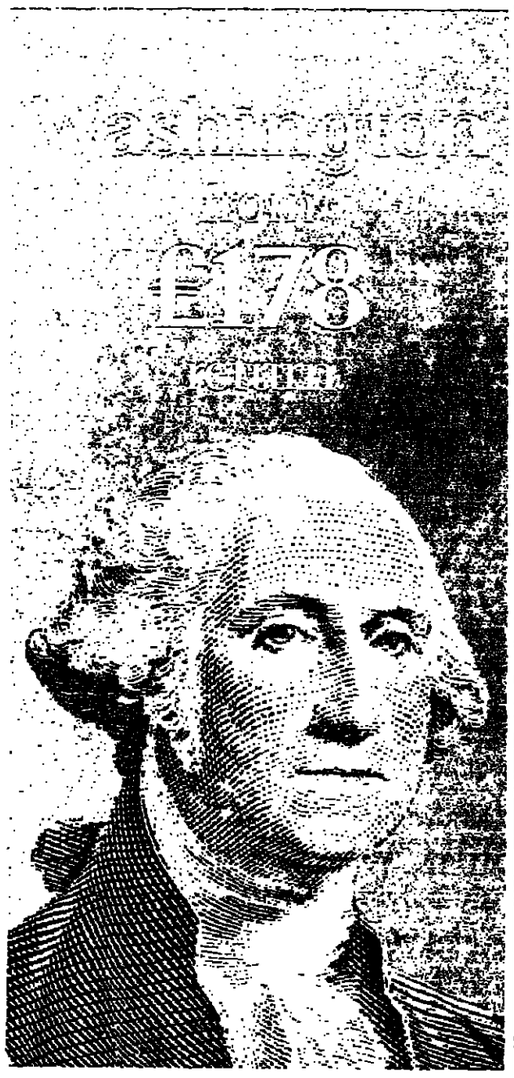
However, Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, and his colleagues were hardly in high spirits last night as they arrived for a weekend intended to help clear the way for the EU's grandest project.

The closer the euro gets, the sharper is the light thrown on the political hurdles along the final straight to the launch date of January 1, 1999. Unemployment in Germany and France and growing resistance in the German political world, are fuelling doubts about the prospects for locking a probable majority of the EU states into monetary union.

The Mondorf meeting, to be attended by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, is focusing on the few remaining technical decisions. However, the ministers are also seeking answers to big questions. Top among these is the collision between Bonn's vision of a currency run on the strict anti-inflationist creed of the Bundesbank and France's determination to manage the currency as a tool for generating growth and combatting the "global hegemony" of the dollar. Linked with this is a EU-wide drive to tackle unemployment.

France forced Germany at the Amsterdam summit in June to acquiesce in the creation of an "economic pole" to balance the power of the European Central Bank, controller of the future currency. Paris put aside its demand for an "economic government" but has since insisted on a "euro Council". M Jospin said this week: "The single currency will have no sense without a body to co-ordinate economic policy. The euro must be accompanied by... employment policy in European construction." Germany's guardians of monetary rectitude see this as a recipe for inflation and a soft currency, especially now that the euro seems likely to be embraced by Italy, Spain and other nations with shaky monetary histories. The prospect of a "wide", and so potentially soft, euro is feeding German anxiety.

Despite the increasingly noisy debate, many EU officials believe the euro is firmly on course for its launch. Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, this week urged the Germans and others to stop worrying out loud and said the 1999 start was inevitable. He and other euro supporters are drawing encouragement from an unlikely source: the financial markets. From Wall Street to Tokyo, the betting is on a successful birth for the euro.



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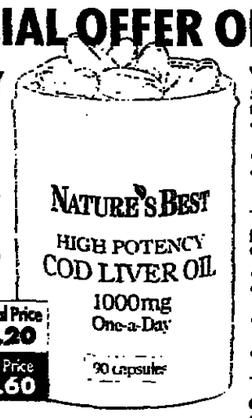

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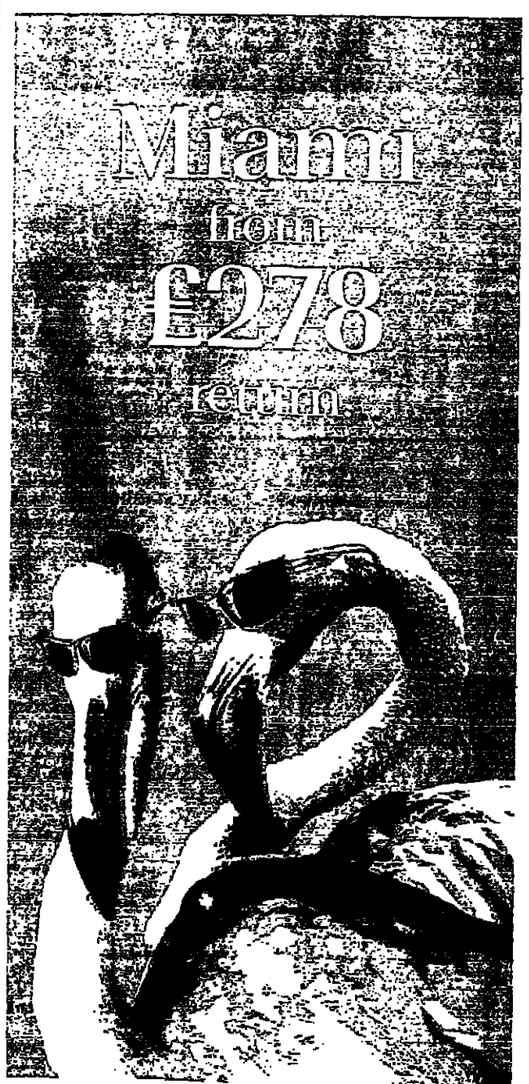

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Albright initiative to build on secret talks with Syria

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT yesterday turned her attention from Israel's stalled talks with the Palestinians to its frozen negotiations with Syria as she flew to Damascus to see President Assad.

US officials attempted to play down expectations of the Secretary of State's visit, raised by speculation in Israel of a possible thaw with Syria after secret talks in London between Uzi Arad, an Israeli official, and an intermediary.

Ms Albright's entourage was anxious for progress after she failed to achieve a breakthrough on talks between Israel and the Palestinians. She acknowledged that the only tangible outcome — a promise by officials on both sides officials to fly to the US for more talks later this month — fell far short of what is needed.

Albright: taking an offer to Damascus

Israeli Radio reported yesterday that Ms Albright was carrying a written message from Israeli officials to the Syrians. US State Department sources said one suggestion would be a low-level resumption of Israeli-Syrian contacts under American auspices.

Before Mrs Albright began her talks with the Syrian leader, one US official said that "differences between the present [Israeli] Government and the past [Labour] Government are not as great as we thought".

The deadlock between Israel and Syria resulted from Mr Assad's insistence that new talks begin where those with the former Government were broken off. He claimed that Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Prime Minister, promised to hand back the whole of the Golan Heights in exchange for peace. Binyamin Netanyahu, Rabin's successor, has so far refused to make a similar pledge.

The 15,000 Jewish settlers on the Golan tried and failed to persuade Ms Albright to visit them. Their leaders fear that Mr Netanyahu may be prepared to abandon them in exchange for a Syrian peace deal.

Shortly before Ms Albright left for Syria, security officials told *Yediot Aharonot* that the failure to find a resolution to the seven-month breakdown in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks had left "the high probability of unrest in the [occupied] territories".

Disillusionment with Mr Netanyahu was indicated by a Gallup poll in *Maariv* which asked Israelis whether they thought he had a solution to the latest terror campaign. About 72 per cent said No and 22 per cent Yes.

Yoel Marcus, writing in the Tel Aviv broadsheet *Haaretz*, said Ms Albright had arrived "without any concrete plans, without a carrot and — most importantly — without a stick".

Islamic militants claimed meanwhile that Israeli agents had kidnapped Ibrahim al-Maqadmeh, one of their leaders, in the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip. An Israeli spokesman flatly denied the allegation.

Dr al-Maqadmeh had been in hiding since March when Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, freed him from detention in an apparent goodwill gesture.

"Fun, sexy, but not smutty." Yelena Hanga, microphone in hand, has found the knack of teasing bedroom secrets out of her audience

Russia's black and blonde chat show host scores hit with sex fantasy TV

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

YELENA HANGA casts her eyes around the studio audience before swooping on her next victim. Man or woman, young or old, no one is spared the intrusion of her microphone and her determination to pry into the most intimate details of their sex lives.

With her slim build, engaging laugh and chatty style, the young black Russian presenter, who wears a striking blonde wig for effect, beguiles her stony-faced guests. Men come clean about their erotic fantasies, a business woman describes in detail how she dominates her male partners in bed and two pensioners confess that they approve of telephone sex lines.

Sex itself may no longer be a taboo in Russia, where adult films, pornographic magazines and prostitution have flourished since the collapse of Soviet rule. However, what Miss Hanga and her weekly chat show *About It* are attempting is a radical departure into the last relm of Russian society still untouched by the glasnost reforms launched a decade ago. "We jumped straight from censorship to pornography, without ever giving the people a chance to discuss what sex really means in our lives," said Miss Hanga, who was born and raised in Russia, the daughter of an American communist mother and a Tanzanian nationalist father.

"This show fills that gap. It answers problems people would never dare to discuss with their family or friends. And best of all it is entertaining and a lot of fun, without being smutty."

Certainly, Russia could use a dose of sex therapy. Under Communism the state imposed prudish controls on anything to do with sex, banning all sexually explicit material, outlawing homosexuality and even punishing adulterers in the Communist Party.

In one memorable moment during a live television debate in 1986 between American and Russian audiences, a haughty Soviet matron, engaged in a transatlantic duel about the evils of Western society, declared triumphantly: "There is no sex in the Soviet Union."

She was misinformed, however, and according to two international surveys published last year, Russia is one of the most sexually active nations in the world, even if people are still reluctant to talk openly about it.

Although only one programme has so far been broadcast, the show caused an instant sensation. Viewers were stunned to hear an "experienced woman" — a working call girl — explain the finer points of oral sex and faking an orgasm, and she warned wives that unless they improved their performance in bed they would lose their husbands to mistresses or prostitutes.

One man, looking sheepishly at his interviewer, confessed that his fantasy was to have sex with a black woman. Other men in the audience nodded in agreement, but were silenced by a young woman, who revealed that she had sex with a black man and it was nothing special.

Miss Hanga admits that the show is an education for her as well. "I lived an incredibly sheltered life in Moscow and I did not do anything more daring than kiss my first boyfriend at university," she said. When a guest described how she liked to be *amazonka* — on top of her partner — the presenter did not know what she was talking about until prompted by her producer who hissed through the earpiece: "Don't look so surprised, you're supposed to know what they are talking about." Not everyone in Russia wants to be educated and the programme has predictably offended die-hard Communists and Russian nationalists, who regard the show as one of the most pernicious examples of Western decadence to invade the country.

Stanislav Govorukhin, the chairman of the parliamentary culture committee, said that even if the programme was aired late at night to avoid young viewers it could still harm adults. "Not only is the programme in bad taste, but it is vulgar and indecent," said the parliamentary deputy who is also a famous film director. "I could only stomach it for five minutes. There is not a single country in the world which would allow such depravity to be broadcast."

Nevertheless, Miss Hanga remains undaunted. She is already planning the next topics for her programme, including sex after 70.

☐ Vodka deaths: President Yeltsin vowed to combat the producers of moonshine vodka, which kills thousands of Russians each year and deprives the state of sorely needed revenue. Alcohol poisoning has increased almost threefold in the past five years, Mr Yeltsin said. *(Reuters)*

Spreading violence worries tour firms in Kenya

FROM DAVID ORR IN NAIROBI

TOURISTS hoping for a relaxing holiday on Kenya's coast are getting more than they were led to expect from the brochures. A spate of attacks by armed raiders has sent shockwaves through the luxury beach resorts that dot the coastline. According to local tourism officials, the violence is likely to continue until elections later this year.

In the latest attack, on Thursday, a band of about 60 men wielding automatic assault rifles descended on a coastal village just south of Mombasa. In the ensuing gunbattle, two Kenyan civilians were killed and two injured. More than 20 shops and bars were burnt to the ground. The police said that by yesterday afternoon they had shot dead 10 and arrested 27 of the guerrillas.

About 60 Kenyans have been killed and thousands made homeless since mid-August when guerrillas attacked a police station at Likoni, south of Mombasa. Then six police officers were shot dead. Guns and ammunition stolen from the station are still being used in attacks.

The targets have mostly been Kenyans from the interior, particularly members of the Luo ethnic group, who are regarded locally as being opposed to President Moi and his ruling Kanu party. It is widely believed the attacks are intended by Kanu extremists to intimidate opponents before the forthcoming poll.

Moi: his opponents are being targeted

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Jiang juggles the market with Marxist theory

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

UNDER a giant golden hammer and sickle, China's party chief Jiang Zemin turned verbal somersaults yesterday as he explained at the start of the 15th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party how even as China expanded its free markets and moved away from state-run enterprises it remained essentially Marxist.

In a 50-page report, that took two and a half hours to read, President Jiang gave a brief nod to Mao Zedong's legacy and pledged continued support for the late Deng Xiaoping's "socialism with Chinese characteristics".

Establishing his Marxist credentials, the Chinese leader said that practice proved that "Deng Xiaoping Theory", a continuation and development of "Mao Zedong Thought", was the correct theory guiding the people in successfully accomplishing their socialist modernisation.

"Deng Xiaoping Theory is the Marxism of present-day China," he said, "representing a new stage of the development of Marxism in China." But he said that, in relation to the economy: "the quality and efficiency of the national economy as a whole remain fairly low, the irrational economic structure still poses a rather outstanding problem, and especially part of the state-owned enterprises lack vitality."

In effect, thousands of state-owned industries are to be "privatised". But a sector of the economy still employing more than 110 million people is going to be radically different, though this is a delicate matter in China, prone as it is to instability, with so many already out of work.

"With the deepening of enterprise reforms, technological process and readjustment of the economic structure, it would be hard to avoid the flow of personnel and lay-offs," he said. The party and Government, he added, would take measures and rely on all quarters of society to show concern for laid-off workers, help them with their welfare, organise job training, and open up new avenues of employment.

The President also announced a massive half million reduction in the armed forces. "In addition to the army reduction by one million men in the 1980s, we shall reduce the armed forces by another 500,000 in the next three years," he said.

Diplomats say that all this is going to throw hundreds of thousands of younger men on to the job market, at a time so many other people have already been laid off. "The whole thing is a mammoth gamble," said one Western envoy.

CLAUDIA DAUT/REUTERS

General Augusto Pinochet smiles at his wife Lucía during a mass at the Bernardo O'Higgins military school, Santiago, to mark the 1973 coup which he led against President Allende. General Pinochet, 82, who was President of Chile until 1990, is due to retire in March

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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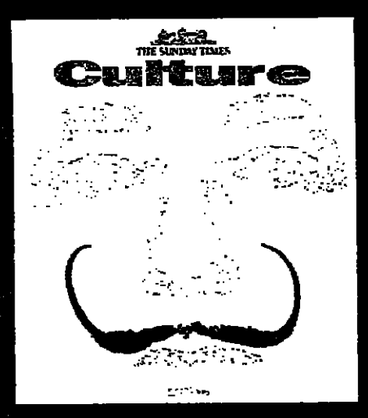

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Calcutta security fears over funeral of Mother Teresa

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN CALCUTTA

CALCUTTA has been overrun by dignitaries, bureaucrats, camera crews and journalists for today's funeral of Mother Teresa, who died eight days ago. Every hotel and boarding house is packed and the telephone system is groaning under the strain of international calls. Calcutta has never had to cope with anything like it.

Television companies are in fierce competition, although they know the death of Mother Teresa will not attract more than a fraction of those who followed the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

The arrival of so many dignitaries, including Hillary Clinton, John Prescott, the Queen of Jordan and the Duchess of Kent, has stretched the security services to breaking point. The Government has block-booked hundreds of rooms in five-star hotels and sent extra security personnel to look after them. To ensure their safety the dignitaries will travel behind the coffin in vehicles, rather than on foot.

Last-minute preparations were being made last night at the Netaji indoor sports stadium, where the funeral Mass will be held. A giant altar, 44 ft by 23 ft, has been erected and 50 priests, including cardinals and bishops, will take part.

There was confusion last night over who would be allowed into the stadium, which can hold 12,000 people.

Mother Teresa's niece, Agi, is expected to attend. She is believed to be the last surviving close relative of the Albanian-born nun. Nine nuns with whom Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity nearly 50 years ago will stand behind the coffin on its journey from the stadium to the burial site, along with destitutes and leprosy patients.

The decision to bury Mother Teresa in a room in Mother House, the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity, continues to draw criticism because it will prevent free public access. The decision was taken because of the risk that poor people might try to break her tomb up and sell pieces as souvenirs. There are also fears that right-wing Hindus, some of whom resent the attention given to the Christian nun, might desecrate the grave.

India has declared today a day of state mourning. Flags will be flown at half mast on government buildings.

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History man who refuses to bow to the passage of time

Alan Clark used his break from politics to write a television history of the Tory party. The result is characteristically pithy, opinionated and hugely enjoyable

Valerie Grove

What a relief to welcome back Alan Clark. Nobody of his restless energy and eccentricity could have stayed in his moated castle in Kent, despite its beauty and peacocks. We need him here, stirring things up — in politics and on our screens, and locked in legal wrangles, and fending off press interest in a prescient article he wrote in *The Spectator* four weeks ago.

His subject, under the title "Pressed To Death", was the "press corps' body count" of people driven to their death by media intrusion. The person they most wanted to hound in this way, he said, "the ultimate trophy", would be Her Royal Highness. This was altered to Diana, Princess of Wales, rendering the uncanny foresight more specific. But it is a medieval concept, he says, to believe that people who predict things actually make them happen.

"I was just trying to tell people what's going on. The press's motive is to cause pain. It's a blood sport. A reporter rings up Jane and says, 'We've spoken to the mother of your husband's love-child, have you any comment?' Luckily, Jane is a match for any reporter trying to give her a fright like that, but if she'd blown her brains out they'd have been delighted. Great story!"

He says that the press's hypocrisy, believing it has the right to attack Tory MPs because of family values, is "totally bogus. I have never in my entire life said anything about family values. I have been married all my life to the same person, I have children and grandchildren and more than that I have nothing to say.

"The relationship one has with the press," sighs Clark, "is like being in love with a difficult girl, who's beautiful and dangerous and uses your credit card ruthlessly. But if you use photocalls and press conferences to project yourself, you can't call for legislation."

We were on our way to the Carlton Club, for a screening of his four-part series, *Alan Clark's History of the Tory Party*. He has spent two years making this, interrupted by getting selected and elected in Kensington and Chelsea. It starts on BBC2 tomorrow evening with 1922 and will end with the May 1 defeat, to be aired on the eve of the party conference.

But to the BBC's embarrassment, its launch coincides with an acrimonious rift between Clark and the corporation. The bone of contention is that one of his beloved rottweilers bit (Clark says "nipped") a BBC cameraman (Clark says provoked by the camera's long lens) and is under sentence of death. "But he carried on filming and refused Jane's offer of first aid. Apparently he had a couple of stitches. Jane is distraught: she adores those dogs, they're frightfully sweet." He calls it sheer spite and vindictiveness. "The CPS sent four lawyers down to Folkestone for the hearing. Can you believe it? A case that should have been settled by a handshake. I'm afraid it's class war."

He is collecting character testimonials for his dogs — named after Hitler's mistress and his test pilot — and says he will never do a broadcast for the BBC again. "I've refused to go on Frost, refused *Today* countless times. My *amour propre* will not allow me to carry on with an organisation that's trying to get a pet destroyed. The BBC can stuff themselves."

Few men are more age and looks-conscious and as he fumes he looks uncommonly well in his 70th year. "Sometimes I look incredible and sometimes I look cadaverous and exhausted. But at least my hair doesn't blow off in the wind. Nor do I dye it. I sort of toy with keeping these things in reserve for later. Nigel Lawson dyed his hair very early, but I'm a colossal hypochondriac and is it liver cancer you get from the dye?" He never even takes an aspirin. "And I don't know about cosmetics. Tony Blair is covered in make-up all the time, so's David Frost."

He offered me a chocolate biscuit; I requested one of the three wheaten ones on his plate. "No, you can't have those, they're mine." This is the secret of his lean figure: he is a vegetarian — he makes an exception only for venison — and consumes huge quantities of carbohydrates, Danish pastries etc.

Parliament Square as we passed was still awash with flowers. He'd been at Eriboll, his Scottish fastness, pulling up his dinghy on the loch after a fishing trip when he heard the news of Diana from his daughter-in-law. That evening the preacher at Eriboll church changed their service instantly "and sang a ballad in the Gaelic, very moving". He and Jane spent last Friday night in his office in Parliament Street, to watch the funeral procession. They joined in the applause for Earl Spencer, not just for what he said, but in relief that he'd got through it without breaking down. Elton John made him sob, "and, my God, can he play the piano".

Tomorrow he will air his views "in my customary brutish style" in his *News of the World* column. "They treat me better than the *Mail on Sunday*, who were always fussing and whingeing and put me next to advertisements for male trusses." He has perfected a John Junor-like tabloidese: here he is discussing Robin Cook's recent "spot of bother":

"Hats off to Margaret Cook, wife of our Foreign Secretary ... My own wife, Jane, is a most wonderful woman. She has stood by me through thick and thin. But even she didn't go so far as to blame the Labour Party for my behaviour.

"My dear Robin, if it's a 'political' wife you're looking for, you'll never find one as good as Margaret!"

(Clark's marital good fortune, despite his confessional diaries, is legendary. I once watched the incomparable Jane packing her husband's overnight bag, as for a schoolboy son — two shirts, apple, milk, honey sandwich and £30.)

I must admit that I find the parody of his diaries, which Peter Bradshaw writes weekly in the London *Evening Standard*, absolutely brilliant. But Clark is suing over it. They put his photograph on top of it and he says lots of people think it really is by him.

"I'm not at all litigious, but it's very tiresome. For example, there was a frightfully funny episode that Peter Bradshaw wrote, when Jonathan Aitken was on the run and came up to Eriboll to hide out. He had Jonathan asking me, over dinner, were there any massage parlours near by? and I said, 'I'm afraid not, but try the farmer's daughter over in Kinlochbervie ...' and within hours the phones were ringing from Kinlochbervie, outraged. Well, it's not funny if people think I wrote it. I've got to stop it."

The BBC waxes lyrical about his performance in the new series. Of course he is a natural, with his languid urbanity and the voice he once described as "drawly, queenly, like an old don after lunch". He says the oversimplification demanded by television scriptwriting was "alarming, to an historian, as I am, trained under Robert Blake and Hugh Trevor-Roper".

His father, Lord Clark of *Civilisation*, never used a script, or needed a second take. "But they always say, 'That was fantastic. Could you do it again, leaving your hand on the door handle for just a tiny bit longer?' After six takes, the words jumble in your mind and you become fractious. I have every sympathy with the Duchess of York." Luckily the director, Clara Glynn, has beautiful Pre-Raphaelite curls. He didn't think he could have worked with a man.

The result is highly enjoyable, and characteristically pithy about his own party. Standing in patrician pose on a battlement at Saltwood he delivers pronouncements on the paternalistic old toffs and propertied grandees, haunted by the spectre of the mob. "To be brutal and unsympathetic was not a drawback in the Tory party of the 1930s." (During the screening he leans over and says wasn't it a good idea to use all the old buffers from the 1930s? Next to them he looks a mere lad.) His view is that the Tory Government colluded in the Abdication to rid themselves of the King, "a bloody nuisance ... selfish, erratic, impatient of protocol and prone to leftish enthusiasms".

He is still writing the book version of his Tory history. "One paper asked me for 6,000 words on sleaze. Well, I'm not the best person to choose to do that. Anyway, it's financial sleaze that's damaging, but what they always mean is sex, as they simultaneously lick their lips and avert their eyes. I've always taken the view that sex is part of everyday life and it is embarrassing to isolate it."

The collapse of the Tories, and Blair's manoeuvring of Labour, leaves a gaping terrain in politics. It is "too soon" to judge young Hague. He thinks there is a spirituality about Tony Blair, even if his delivery of 1 Corinthians xiii was "pure ham. H-A-M. High-grade doorstep performance." (He also likes Peter Mandelson and has tried to lure him to Saltwood for a weekend.) "I do admire Blair — he's like Schumacher driving with one hand, he'll end upside down in a ditch. But I do regret the way he has monopolised the word 'people'. It's totalitarian, potentially sinister, not democratic at all."

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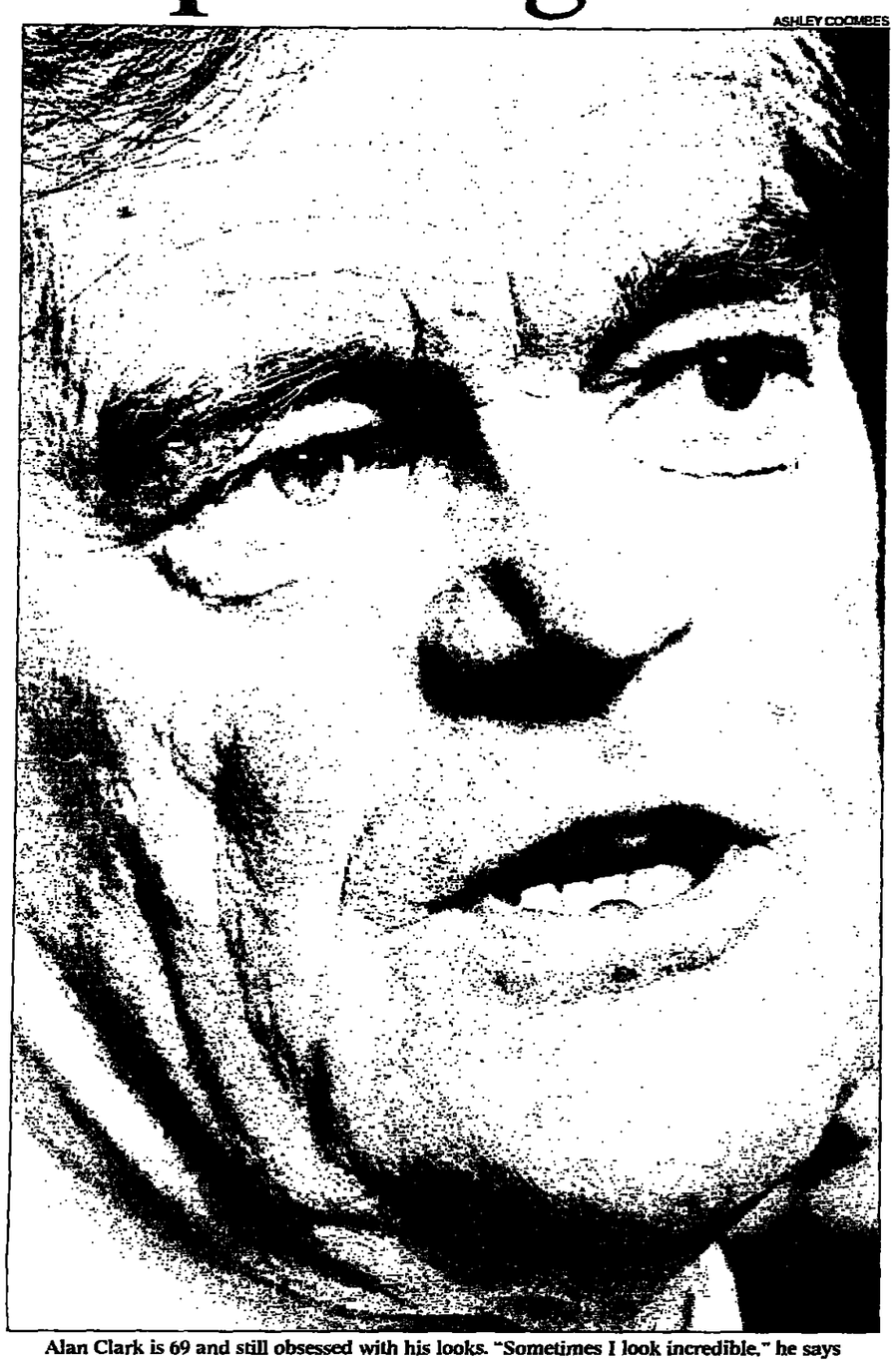
ASHLEY COOMBES



Alan Clark is 69 and still obsessed with his looks. "Sometimes I look incredible," he says

A personal victory in conflict of modern and medieval

THEATRE
Henry V
Royal Shakespeare
Stratford

FIRST image: a phalanx of officers in gold-and-blue uniforms slow-marching to a drum. Second image: Michael Sheen's Henry V sitting in a briefing room while a projector fills a screen with pictures of mud, death and burial at the Somme. Third image: hefty walls of stone, on which the names of the fallen are printed, after the manner of the Vietnam memorial in Washington. In its opening moments Ron Daniels's production reads you such a sermon on the awesomeness and awfulness of war that you wonder if there is any point in staging Shakespeare at all.

As it turns out, there is plenty. There is some excellent acting to come, not least from Sheen, an actor at last justifying the promise of his Peer Gynt three years ago. Nor does Daniels proceed to use the Bard as a megaphone through which to condemn the Falklands campaign or the Gulf War. On the whole, he allows the play to speak for itself — and speak pretty well.

Mark you, there were times when Daniels's mix of the modern and the medieval did not quite work. A shamefully literal part of me asked why, if the English had camouflaged themselves in khaki flak-jackets, they carried into battle a vast red-and-blue standard plastered with gold lions and fleurs-de-lis? Again, I wondered if it was right for armoured French grandees to go into battle on great silver steeds that, thanks to stilts below the riders, splendidly prance and buck. The point about Agincourt is that a small, weak force defeated a big, strong one. When the bullets fly round the horses here, you are more likely to be reminded of the German infantry routing the Polish cavalry in the Second World War.

The production is more effective when it sticks to a single era, as it does when a concrete wall covered with wire appears, followed by East End lowlife in the form of Nym, Bardolph and Pistol. With their black leathers and garish T-shirts they look like a set of motorcycle couriers gone to the bad; but it is the sleazy fun they generate that justifies their presence.

There are fine performances from actors in often unnoticed roles, but no one upstages Sheen. After seeing him at the National in a poorish play about the Balkans, buzzing round the stage like a bee on speed, I had begun to fear we might have overrated him. But his Henry is consistently impressive, not least because it counterbalances the production's opening by conceding that war can be an adrenalin that sends the senses soaring.

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CONCERTS

Diana and the pursuit of the millennium

Spirituality isn't in decline — only the churches, says **Damian Thompson**

As the last millennium approached, the population of Europe was alarmed by the sudden deaths of famous people and sought release in unexpected public displays of emotion. The parallel with our own experiences might seem suspiciously neat: in fact, these are among the few things we know for sure about the run-up to the year 1000.

There are many legends about the year 1000. It is not true that on December 31, 999, lords and peasants knelt down in church together to await the returning Jesus, nor that they let loose their oxen to wander through the streets. These surreal scenes drifted out of the overactive imaginations of 16th-century historians.

Not one contemporary document describes apocalyptic panic, a fact which has led many authorities (especially anti-religious Marxists) to insist that the year 1000 was a meaningless event. Only a few monks knew the date, runs the argument; therefore no one cared.

But this, too, is a fabrication. Medieval men and women may not have orientated themselves by the modern concept of the date, but "the millennium of Christ's birth, life and resurrection", a running anniversary which extended from 1000 to 1033, exerted a vice-like grip on their imaginations which they were at a loss to explain. And this is where the analogy with our own day becomes weirdly compelling.

The chronicles of Ralph Glaber, a gossipy 11th-century Burgundian monk, demonstrate that during the late 990s, and again just before 1033, people felt disorientated by events. As the year 1000 neared, he says, "almost the whole world suffered the loss of great men, noble laymen and clerics". A comet hung in the sky. Fires and plagues ravaged Western Europe.

Then, as the millennium of the Resurrection approached, the sequence was repeated. Clustered around both dates, moreover, were strange open-air assemblies in southern France in which ordinary people effectively forced the aristocracy to sign pledges of good behaviour. "The Peace of God". Holy banners fluttered as bishops raised their staffs to heaven and the crowd, palms outstretched, shouted: "Peace! Peace!"

A new cult of relics appeared, and miracles abounded. But there was a spooky side to the experience. There were reports of Satan worshippers who sacrificed babies — rumours very like the "ritual satanic abuse" scare which recently disfigured our own public life.

What are we to make of this? Is this correspondence between the 990s and the 1990s anything more than a coincidence? Interestingly, the foremost authority on the year 1000, Professor Richard Lanes of Boston University, believes that the connection is both real and profoundly important, and that we should prepare ourselves for the next few years by looking closely at the 1000 and 1033 anniversaries.

Moreover, this approach has acquired a new plausibility in the past two weeks. I don't mean, of course, that the unexpected death of Diana, Princess of Wales, is part of some mysterious re-enactment of the 990s. But the ungovernable popular reaction to it is powerful evidence that Britain is in a state of extreme spiritual suggestibility which owes much to the proximity to a mysterious barrier in time — just like 1,000 years ago.

We often hear these days that organised religion in the West is declining fast. That is true: all the statistics bear it out. But another familiar nostrum, that our society has become irreversibly secular, now seems hopelessly wide of the mark. Last week a Leeds University survey showed that belief in telepathy, UFOs and ghosts is growing, and that more than 17 million people use alternative therapy. Far more people believe in reincarnation than go regularly to church. The ancient quest for the supernatural is being conducted with a new intensity, even as it has veered away from well-trodden Christian paths.

But "alternative" religion or science cannot quite fill the void. I sense a demand for new rituals which is partly directed at the Church of England. Last Saturday, for once, the Church seemed to meet that demand. Yet it cannot take much of the credit for the Princess's funeral, whose extraordinary rubrics were effectively forced on it by the people and extended far beyond the Abbey's doors.

Diana would have been thrilled: to a remarkable degree she personified this unpredictable public craving for the numinous, consulting a clairvoyant one day and lighting candles in a Greek Orthodox chapel the next. She communicated fluently in the new language of symbols which took shape before our eyes last week, in which flowers, ribbons and candles transcended their everyday functions and became the tokens of faith.

The relationship that all this bears to the millennium is complex. What is certain, however, is that those inchoate spiritual yearnings will attach themselves to the great anniversary, just as demands for constitutional change are already doing. So it is vital for Christianity that the churches exploit this opportunity. Unfortunately, they show few signs of doing so. For the past 30 years, Anglicans, Catholics and Nonconformists have offered the opposite of last Saturday's funeral: drab, formulaic and ugly liturgies in which the mystery and beauty of holiness are sidelined.

This lack of imagination extends to the millennium. Most leading churchmen have either played down its significance or come up with ludicrously banal schemes for marking it. One Anglican bishop is planning to go to bed and snore his way through one of the most powerfully symbolic moments in the history of Christianity: "It's all a lot of nonsense," he says.

With this attitude, it seems inevitable that this will be the Church of England's last millennium, and perhaps its last turn of a century. Yet there may be — literally — a flicker of hope.

A few weeks ago, Churches Together in England announced that they will be manufacturing 25 million candles to be lit at 11.58pm on December 31, 1999. At the time I thought it was a silly idea which wouldn't catch on. Now I'm not so sure. But it will only work if the churches abandon their colourless services and lead people where they want to go: into a new imaginative landscape of mystery and symbol where time itself is sacred.

A thousand years ago, according to Glaber, the passing of the millennium was marked by the building of a "white mantle of churches" across the earth. Something of that magnitude must happen this time round. Otherwise the churches' millennial candles will be snuffed out by the wind.

The author's book The End of Time: Faith and Fear in the Shadow of the Millennium *is published by Minerva.*

The referendum revealed a nation abandoning its habitual self-doubt, says **Magnus Linklater**

Scotland the brave surprises itself

When Bonnie Prince Charlie turned back at Derby in 1745, and began the retreat that ended with defeat on Culloden Moor, he left behind a legacy of self-doubt that has dogged the reputation of the Scots ever since. It is a strange psychosis for a nation of such apparent braggarts, but the evidence is persuasive.

It can be detected in the waste of an industrial empire that had once straddled the world; in Scotland's failure to develop its own enterprise culture; its lukewarm response to the 1979 referendum; its seemingly endless litany of sporting defeats snatched from the jaws of victory.

This has undermined its very claim to nationhood. In 1927 the poet Hugh MacDiarmid wrote: "Scotland is unique among European nations in its failure to develop a nationalist sentiment strong enough to be a vital factor in its affairs." The occasional flexing of political muscle in by-elections never seemed to come to much. Successive governments questioned whether Scottish voters were serious about wanting political change. Even the veteran Jim Sillars dismissed the Scots as "90-minute Nationalists".

Thus it was that some of us who went along to the referendum count in Edinburgh's soulless Conference Centre on Thursday night did so with the kind of sick feeling that foreshadows humiliation. For at least an hour before the first result we swapped doleful rumours. The turnout had dropped below 40 per cent, someone said. A teller had turned in a ballot box in Aberdeen with less than a handful of completed forms. The Second Question, on tax, was definitely lost.

And then, something remarkable happened. We surprised ourselves. At 12.30am, tiny Clackmannanshire turned in a massive, thumping "yes" majority on both questions with a solid 66 per cent turnout. Quickly we explained why this had to be a freak result: the SNP had put in a special team there; Donald Dewar himself warned us not to build hopes on it. But then came South Lanarkshire, with nearly 80-20 on the first question and 67-32 on the second. We began to realise that this was becoming a trend. Around the hall, an almost palpable sense of relief began to turn into something else. It was pride.

We had bucked the trend, we had kicked a couple of centuries of Derby retreats into touch, we had demonstrated faith in ourselves. It is hard to describe the atmosphere. There should have been joy. But in that alcohol-free hall, built for conferences of optometrists and lepidopterists, even loud applause sounded inappropriate. So instead we clapped politely. Falkirk 80 per cent — clap-clap-clap. Glasgow 83 per cent — clap-clap-clap.

Only towards the end, as dawn broke and we began to absorb the enormity of what had happened, did we start to behave badly, chanting and punching the air.

What, in the end, were we applauding? It was, I think, a sense that we had done something with conviction. What is more, we had done it without conflict and bitterness. In that hall were Nationalists, Conservatives, supporters of "yes, yes", "no, no", "yes, no", and even the odd "no, yes". Yet it was all good-humoured. Earlier, a photographer from Northern Ireland, who had spent all day in Edinburgh, said how amazed he had been to have visited pubs where opinions were deeply divided between "no" and "yes", but where there was no sign of rancour. "They never fell out," he said.

So perhaps, too, we had discovered a greater sense of unity amongst ourselves than we had believed possible. Certainly the sight of Nationalists and Labour — sworn enemies with a history of bitterness — embracing the same cause, prompted optimism. It cannot last, nor should one expect it to. These, after all, are political opponents. Yet there will be some constraints on their behaviour.

This parliament has been chosen by a large majority of Scottish voters who know exactly what they have done. They may not fully understand all the consequences of their actions, but they have high expectations of this new animal, and they will not thank any party which deliberately sets out to harm it. There is a long time to go before a new parliament meets — three years, perhaps, of heated debate, a long and detailed Bill, and warnings of impending disaster. If any Scottish party, Tory or Nationalist, is seen to be undermining it in advance, it risks incurring the wrath of a Scots majority who just now are relishing a sense of something akin to national virtue.

That will not be quickly forgiven. In his 1927 text, Hugh MacDiarmid added: "It must be recognised that the absence of nationalism is, paradoxically, a form of Scottish self-determination." That sounds suspiciously like John Smith's "settled will of the Scottish people". Maybe we have found it at last.

The art of sensationalism

The Royal Academy's new exhibition shows why artists need censors

Simon Jenkins

Walking one afternoon in the gardens at Teplice, Beethoven and Goethe saw members of the Austrian royal family coming towards them. Beethoven grabbed Goethe by the arm and told him to keeping moving straight ahead. Goethe refused, stepping aside and bowing. Beethoven walked on, forcing the royal group to part. Art, he told Goethe afterwards, should not defer to royalty. These people "must be taught to respect what they cannot make". To Beethoven the State was mortal, the artist God.

The Royal Academy in London is of the Beethoven persuasion. Its ruling council of artists regard themselves as a uniquely privileged profession. They are not so much kings as anarchs. The artist has achieved the status once claimed by trade unions, of autonomy from governments and institutions, from the rules of profit and loss, from the personal feelings of the public.

On Thursday afternoon, the council of the Academy decided to give wall space to the 35-year-old police mugshot of Myra Hindley, refashioned from the handprints of a child. The hackneyed message is to remind us of what this woman did and of "the horror of child abuse". This presumably validates art's role in society, art's political potency, art's ability to lay bare our ambivalence towards issues relating to the modern environment . . . in other words the usual rubbish. *Myra* is going on show despite protests from a victim's family, from Hindley herself and from many Academicians. Art is more important than all that. Besides, if other media can be tasteless about Hindley, why not the RA? We live in a down-market age.

Just now, we might expect everyone to respect those objecting to the exploitation of their personal feelings. I would extend that respect even to Hindley herself. She may incur little sympathy but is now a blatant victim of lynch law. She has served 32 years in prison, longer than any other woman, because of a tabloid campaign against her judicial right to parole. That campaign is fashioned round the same horror picture of her aged 23, now ghoulishly reworked at the Academy. Showing this picture is an accessory to the anti-Hindley campaign and to an injustice.

Sensationalism, as every journalist knows, is good for sales but is rarely harmless fun. Some artist might claim a moral "sensation" by displaying a montage of so-called "known child abusers" at the Academy — without a care for civil rights. I am sure an artist could demand the Academy show a collage of paparazzi pictures of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, to "heighten public awareness of the violence of fame".

Modern curators, terrified of being thought "off message", claim that their duty is merely to display art, not to judge it. *The Sun* and the *Daily Mail* could take the same negligent view in exploiting images of the Princess. The pictures exist. A newspaper is a sort of popular art gallery. A newspaper should not be censor of what others should or should not see.

We are all editors and thus censors. We must choose to publicise, choose to include and choose to exclude. If gallery curators abandon critical judgment, they will let the bullies of fashion be the censors. How can anyone distinguish between a good or bad Damien Hirst? Van Gogh famously wrote of his garbage dump: "My God, it was beautiful." But he portrayed garbage through the medium of his art. This exhibition (or most of it) takes garbage and, like the Dadaists, puts it in a museum. Art is merely a custodial function, an act of redefinition. The artist is a wordsmith.

The Royal Academy exhibition, *Sensation*, including the Hindley picture, will open next week to an orgy of publicity, largely for Hirst's smelly entrails, formaldehyde and plonking "messages". The exhibition is from the collection of Charles Saatchi, and is by young, mostly unknown British artists. The works seem fixated with dissection, genitalia and violence. I cannot judge their quality, only their power to turn my stomach. Walking round I had an uncomfortable feeling that I was not to be a judge but was to be judged, like a Foreign Office candidate being watched eating cherries. Was I man enough, young enough, trendy enough to like this stuff?

The stuff is mostly the usual mutilations, deformities, sex organs and banalities of the Adrian Mole school of sculpture. The catalogue clothes them in the pretension now obligatory for event art. They are "grizzly gothic macabre" or "post-colonial neo-Victorian" or "a democracy of material and meaning". If medicine or law described its work in the gibberish used by artists, half Britain would be dead or in jail.

Beethoven's royal admirers respected him as an artist because they believed he wrote good music. The Academy throws down a different challenge: to admire Mr Saatchi's taste, not because anyone can tell a good dead sheep from a bad one, but because Mr Saatchi says Mr Hirst is a good dead-sheep artist. He has sanctified objects and their finders or creators by the act of his patronage.

Tom Stoppard's *Travesties* satirised the Zurich Dadaists in terms that would apply well to the Academy show. "A man may be an artist," says one of Stoppard's characters, "by exhibiting his hindquarters, or a poet by drawing words out of a hat." He is a schoolboy with a sick-chit from matron, excusing him from normal life "to be ungrateful, hostile, self-centred and talentless". "This chit . . ." the hero Carr finally shouts, "WHERE DID YOU GET IT?" The answer is from Mr Saatchi at the Royal Academy.

The Academy show is all-chitted. It is guaranteed as art under the Beethoven convention. I recall the Institute of Contemporary Art in London being presented with a pile of dirty baby's nappies and a striptease act, both by women who claimed that they were "artists". They were duly admitted to gallery space. The sacred word Art had been uttered. The women were like shamans. The holy sign had been made and nobody dared call their bluff. I am sure Tracey Emin had fun filling her tent with the names of her sexual partners. But Mr Saatchi has put it in the Royal Academy, entitled, *Everyone I Have Ever Slept With 1963-1995*, appliquéd tent, mattress, light, 122 x 245 x 214 cm."

I used to think that Mr Saatchi was victim of what Tom Wolfe called the great art con. Now I am more careful. Mr Saatchi is spending his own money and nobody else's. Rather than hand his cash over to a public gallery to buy what its curators please, he is backing his own taste and artists of his own choosing. As Lisa Jardine argues in a catalogue essay, such Medician enterprise is a vital strand of patronage, preferable to that of public gallery patronage. Better Mr Saatchi's costly excursions into the infantile fantasies of his friends than no costly excursions at all. And the Academy show has, I must admit, tremendous panache.

It is the content, not the form that is depressing. At the end of his survey of 20th-century art, *The Shock of the New*, Robert Hughes wrote gloomily of the "scepticism and dread" with which he viewed the end of the century. How could we compare the works of Cézanne and Seurat in 1900 with today's experimental art? Where were the artists in the wings, "testing the imaginative visions that will enable them to transcend the stagnant orthodoxies of their time"?

I assume the Academy and Mr Saatchi believe they have found the answer, in young people eager to tear at the Establishment's genitalia and kick over the cultural applecart. After seeing this show, I have become rather keen on applecarts.

STEPHEN WHITE

Everyone I Have Ever Slept With 1963-1995 by Tracey Emin (1995) sets out to shock by pinning to a tent interior the names of her mother, her lovers — male and female — and her aborted foetuses

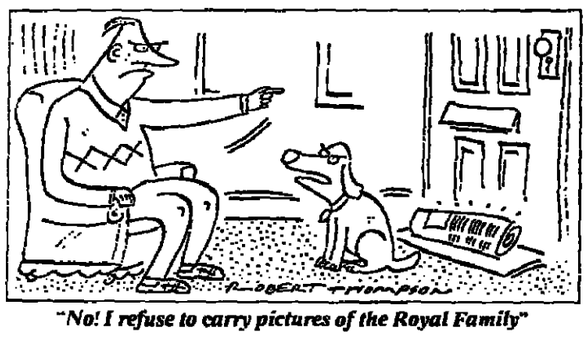
Blue water

BUCKET in hand, queueing at a tap, stood the Leader of the Opposition. Every morning for the past week Wee Willie Hague has been forced to pad down the street as the water supply of the block of flats he shares with numerous MPs has been contaminated by diesel fuel.

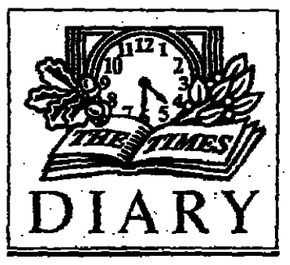
Residents of Dolphin Square, a shabby Westminister block, are not happy. "A week ago we received a letter from the maintenance office saying the water had been seriously contaminated," says a grumpy resident. "We can't even brush our teeth." It appears that diesel stored in a container tank on the premises leaked out and contaminated the water supply's wellhead.

The block has had a difficult time of late. Princess Anne sold her *pied-à-terre* there describing the area as "totally naff", while Ian Mills, MP, was found dead there surrounded by empty bottles.

Dwellers, who include more MPs than the Commons chamber during a confidence debate, are forced to queue for water contained in large temporary blue tanks, positioned in the street by Thames Water. Wee Willie, as you would expect, looks as dignified as ever.



"No! I refuse to carry pictures of the Royal Family"



● *WITH timing like Wee Willie's all we need do is sit and watch him do to his career what Mellors did to Lady Chatterley. Following a week of fierce devolution debate, the Leader of the Opposition is to attend the most nationalistic event on the English calendar — tonight's Last Night of the Proms. This should go down well with the sons of Owen Glendower.*

Ice breaker

GATECRASHERS are normally teenagers, brimming with excess testosterone, rather than former ministers. But when the former minister is Steven Norris and the party is bouncing with "It" girls, rules are broken. "I was just passing and sort of drifted in," explained the former Transport Minister, remembered for his energetic nocturnal activities. The party was thrown by Lord Lewisham, whose erstwhile girlfriend Julia Stephenson, thirtysomething "It" queen, has written an "It" girl bible, *Pandora's Diamonds*. The book guides svelte young lovelies through pressing problems such as *feng shui* (how to align your Conran sofas for eternal prosperity) and the desperate need for an environmental version of *Harpers & Queen*. Norris still seemed happy: "I've only just met Julia, but she is absolutely divine. I will take *Pandora's Diamonds* to bed, me."

● *LABOUR MPs really have gone off-message. Alastair Campbell, chief spin-doctor, issued his MPs with pagers to make sure they were all spouting the same line. But in the long recess, gremlins have set in. MPs, who normally quiver when their pagers bleep, are now used to receiving messages which summon them to "the Wheps Office", while one Member received the urgent bleep "Up the Hammers".*

Aunt Sali

THE indignities of life after office. The former President of Albania, Sali Berisha — once hailed by the West for banishing communism from that gloomy outpost — has been turfed off an Air Italia jet.

Possibly the must celebrated Albanian after Mother Teresa, he was journeying to Calcutta to attend the great woman's funeral. But when he arrived in Rome from Albania on Thursday, the India-bound aircraft was full — and Air Italia refused to turf anyone off. Poor Berisha was forced to fly standby via Bucharest, without so much as an onion bhaji to munch through a long night in steerage.

● *REVENGE at last. The Tories are taking on Labour at cricket this weekend in the* Express *Challenge — and are reckoned to be favourites. Chief Tory weapon is David Faber, with his languid cover drives. But the Labour team, drawn mainly from No 10, is typically confident of win. Boasts one: "We'll smash them round the park just like the election."*

Stephenson: diamond queen

Dutch elm

ROYAL support for the Prince of Wales's habit of talking to trees comes from Princess Irene of the Netherlands. "People who talk to trees are often viewed with suspicion," she says. "Even more so if they claim that the trees talk back and help them." The Princess, sister of Queen Beatrix and ex-wife of Prince Carlos of Spain, has just written a book on the subject. She has spent the last few years in "personal development workshops".

● *SO MUCH for Scottish unity. James Naughtie, Today's Scottish presenter, let slip on air yesterday: "I would rather be governed from London than Glasgow."*

Dirty Linen

CLINT EASTWOOD is about to go into the rag trade. The man who brought us leather chaps, the Magnum and five o'clock shadow is to start his own designer clothes label, called Tehāma for Clint.

For a man who spent his early days astride dusty horses, Dirty Harry has proved to be an astute businessman. Recent ventures include a golf course in Monterey, another in his home town of Carmel, California, and a beer, Pale Rider. His foray into fashion follows that of the basketball player, Michael Jordan, who launched a designer label last month.

Oddly, stetsons and cowboy boots will not be included. "It is a whole gamut of clothing that co-ordinates polo shirts, sweaters, vests," a business partner explains. "The range has a 1940s feel — a style of sophistication and good living, in the upper-middle price range, that emulates Clint." Hmm. But we want some ponchos.

Eastwood: new style-setter

P·H·S

WHILE ENGLAND SLEPT

The United Kingdom must now adjust to devolution

Scotland has spoken and with a roar, not a whisper. The rest of the country must now consider the consequences. Although the campaign itself was artificially truncated, the arguments have been rehearsed to exhaustion north of the border. Elements of the Labour leadership might have secretly hoped that the two-question referendum would produce a taxless and hence toothless assembly. If so, they will be disappointed. The margin of the majority means that the future parliament has the mandate and moral authority to use its power.

The scale of the "yes-yes" campaign's triumph will have surprised almost all commentators in England. Throughout the last 15 years opinion polls in Scotland have suggested a solid three to one support for change. But it was widely assumed — by all parties — that those numbers reflected public contempt for the Conservatives rather than positive enthusiasm for constitutional innovation. It was thought that Labour's assumption of office in London would tame Scottish sentiment. Such calculations have been proved spectacularly inaccurate.

The Tories, in particular, should learn a lot from this outcome. The tone of their opposition was peculiarly unconservative. Their case was based almost exclusively on legitimate but contestable claims of the adverse economic consequences. They ceded the entire terrain of national identity and local sovereignty to their opponents. No alternative to devolution other than the status quo was ever offered. This was hardly the stance that they would take in the event of a plebiscite on a single currency during the course of this Parliament. The party of subsidiarity within the European Union has not well explained why the principle should not be applied within Britain.

The White Paper has been blessed at the ballot box but it must be made much more workable. That in turn requires enhanced, rather than nominal, scrutiny for the final legislation. This is essential not to erode but to entrench the settled will of the Scottish electorate. The principle of fundamental reform is secure but the details demand rigorous examination. All of this should be done in the most constructive of spirits.

There is the danger of the devolutionists adopting a triumphalist approach in both Cabinet and Parliament. After a struggle lasting two decades it might be tempting for those who have fought their corner so long and with such passionate to want to push legislation through Parliament as quickly as possible. An already enfeebled opposition now looks emasculated. But that approach would invite the friction and factionalism that Labour has so far avoided.

Two outstanding matters invite further modification. The Scots have settled the Westminster question but not the West Lothian one. The issue of Scotland's future representation in London is still surrounded by ambiguity. It needs to be dealt with in the next few months, not deferred to some later boundary commission in the year 2007. The funding formula, although complex, cannot continue to be wrapped in waffle either. It is in the best interests of all sides that both Parliaments understand their financial relationship from the outset. The Government might well be inclined to avoid all these complications, not least to preserve its "no new taxes" promise. If so, the disputes will be all the more intense afterwards.

The White Paper does not simply list those functions delegated to Edinburgh but instead outlines those that will remain with Westminster. It is thus a blueprint for the entire United Kingdom. The British, or at least the English, have historically been reluctant to place in statute the allocation of political powers. The legislation that the House of Commons will consider is as close to a constitutional text as our system is likely to deliver. It will be the most important Bill of its form since the Parliament Act of 1911. Until Thursday it might have been possible for the rest of the country to treat devolution as an exclusively Scottish issue. That time has passed. The will of the people is indeed the supreme law. The role of Parliament, though, has rarely been more important.

A HUMAN MEMORIAL

A national mood that can be harnessed for the good

The intense phase of mourning may be over, but the nation is still haunted by the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The millions of people who watched her funeral, thronged the route, signed books of condolence and still flock to Kensington Gardens share an inchoate desire to reflect in their own lives the values which the Princess prized in hers. If some of her idealism could be harnessed, it could create the most fitting human memorial to the life of Diana.

The Prime Minister should launch a national crusade to persuade as many individuals and businesses as possible to translate that conscience into action. Everyone should be encouraged to give up just a little of their time and energy to voluntary work. It could be helping an aged neighbour, offering time to a charitable organisation, or building something new in Diana's memory.

The projects should have a deadline: open-ended commitments could deter people from participating. The most natural end-date is the millennium, though if people and businesses found their voluntary work rewarding they might want to continue it. By the year 2000, if a substantial proportion of the population joined in, all over the country, gardens, playgrounds, bicyle paths and clubs could have sprung up, dedicated to the Princess.

The overarching organisation could be the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, which has already raised hundreds of millions of pounds in less than a fortnight. It could compile lists of organisations seeking volunteers, put people in touch with projects, and encourage local initiatives with seedcorn money and business expertise. Businesses should respond by lending employees, donating materials and offering free services.

Much of the work would be person-to-person: perhaps going into a school to help children with their reading, delivering meals on wheels, becoming a mentor to a disaffected teenager or setting up a Saturday football club. But some of the projects could be physical too: a piece of wasteland turned into a garden, a co-operative shop opened on a housing estate staffed by volunteers, or a pond dredged. People would decide for themselves what would make their locality better, and join together to make it happen. The Fund would simply offer its imprimatur and act as a co-ordinator where necessary.

By the end of the century, it could collate an enormous record of the activities undertaken in Diana's name. Some of the projects would continue as a lasting memorial, others would remain only in the hearts and memories of those who helped and those who were helped.

This is a crusade that would be easy for Tony Blair to start. The scheme exemplifies the values which he wants to project: working together for the common good, caring for the less fortunate, and matching rights with responsibilities. But the effort should nonetheless be non-partisan and inclusive, corralling as many influential people as possible, from pop stars to princes, to lend support to the cause. Its only enemies are apathy and cynicism: but these are two traits that seem miraculously to have declined within the nation's psyche in the past two weeks.

DIPLOMATIC INCIDENT

Open government arrives at the Foreign Office

A nuclear bunker, Oxford prison, town halls and courts of justice will this weekend throw open their doors so that a curious public can gawp at the splendours of municipal architecture and admire the heritage of buildings normally seen only by their inmates and those citizens caught up in the wheels of the State. Access to these unusual tourist sites has been granted under the Heritage Open Days scheme, organised by the Civic Trust. It believes that Britons are enriched by seeing how pumping stations work, what is stored in First World War forts and the table talk of an RAF officers' mess.

This weekend the sites out of London are on display. Next weekend it is the turn of the capital, and the glories of Whitehall will be revealed to those who tire of the normal tourist fare. Some buildings are undeniably dingy: the Treasury, squatting dourly on the corner of Parliament Square, hardly glisters with the gold that taxpayers assume it contains. Yet just across the road the Foreign Office, newly resplendent in an award-winning restoration to Victorian grandeur, offers visitors one of the most imposing views of how the confidence of a century ago manifested itself in imposing staircases, gilt capitals and star-spangled ceilings.

The Foreign Office has also decided to put on display not only its architectural treasures, but the mandarins who inhabit it. On Friday, when normal diplomacy is in full swing, more than 800 selected students, community leaders and careers officers will be invited to traipse down the hallowed corridors and see for themselves how Britain keeps in touch with the world. Here, perhaps, they can see diplomats drafting a *démarche*, there an ambassador being carpeted. They can question first secretaries poring over telegrams, watch consuls negotiate the escape of Britons stranded in hostile territory, peep through keyholes at cipher clerks sending coded instructions to Our Man in Havana.

The aim of such irreverent spying on the nerve-centre of Britain's global reach is to inspire an enthusiasm for the exciting world of diplomacy. Despite all the television documentaries, the fly-on-the wall view of our consul's tribulation in Palma de Majorca, there is an assumption beyond Whitehall that the Foreign Office is all canapés and small talk, exegesis of treaty texts and plotting the diplomatic stiletto. Too few women and far too few young people from ethnic minorities are taking to the life of an embassy chancery. The message is that it has all changed now. Today's diplomats need to know more about management consultancy than the polished French phrases of the Vienna Convention. For many, the Open Day will be a let down: no pinstripes, no plumed helmets and no gunboats. Palmerston would doubtless be horrified.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Repercussions of devolution choice

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Scotland's tax time bomb", September 10) rightly points out that a Scottish parliament would have the power to raise significant extra amounts of revenue via local taxation — principally the business rate, council tax and any other local taxes that seemed appropriate. Now that the "yes, yes" result in the referendum is likely to give a Scottish parliament the power to raise the basic rate of income tax by up to 3p in the pound as well, it is clear that it could, if so wished, increase the tax raised from Scotland by several billion pounds per annum. Unfortunately for Scotland, England is likely to receive the benefit of this revenue.

Our company calculates that, even after allocating for this purpose all the North Sea oil tax revenue to Scotland, the fiscal subsidy given by Westminster to Scotland is around £2.8 billion per annum. Our calculations are based on the latest year for which Treasury figures are available, 1994-95; the subsidy represents the excess of net public expenditure in Scotland, as compared with tax raised in Scotland.

It is very unlikely that the English predominance at Westminster will be prepared to tolerate this subsidy once Scotland has its own parliament. Accordingly, it seems likely that it will be progressively withdrawn over (say) a five-year period, on the grounds that the Scottish parliament can now raise its own revenue and does not need a subsidy.

Assuming that the subsidy was withdrawn in equal instalments, the money generated by the end of that period would be sufficient to cut the basic rate of income tax by almost 2p in the pound.

No one seems to have explained to the Scottish electorate that the likely result of a "yes, yes" vote would be to progressively diminish the fiscal subsidy currently enjoyed by Scotland, but it appears inevitable that the English majority at Westminster will now ensure that this happens.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK
(Head of Economics),
Chantrey Vellacott,
(Chartered accountants),
10-12 Russell Square, WC1.
September 12.

From Mr I. Howard Wright

Sir, I understand that Scotland costs the Westminster Government about £1.26 per head for every £1 it spends per head in England. Does Simon Jenkins imagine that if we Scots also paid a lower income tax there would be no complaint from the English?

Yours faithfully,
I. HOWARD WRIGHT,
Flat 23,
39 Blackford Avenue, Edinburgh 9.
September 12.

From Mr Adam Ogilvie-Smith

Sir, A Scot from Edinburgh, I moved south 17 years ago. Since then I have been an "Anglo-Scot". But now I am a tax exile.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM OGILVIE-SMITH,
Hyde House, Pinewoods Road,
Longworth, Oxfordshire.
September 12.

From Mr Robert Theobald

Sir, Whatever may be the pros and cons of Scottish and Welsh devolution, pro-European Union politicians will relish any dissent between the constituent countries of the United Kingdom. For them the nation state is an irrelevance in a future Europe of regions, where all the national parliaments will be "parish councils".

Divide and rule.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT THEOBALD,
127 Bushmead Road,
Luton, Bedfordshire.
silvia@theobald.powernet.co.uk
September 12.

From Mr Colin Spikesley

Sir, Will this mean that we can keep English and Welsh summer time this winter?

Yours faithfully,
COLIN SPIKESLEY,
White Lodge, Wilstead, Bedford.
cspike@online.rednet.co.uk
September 12.

From Professor I. Barclay

Sir, Now that the Scots nationalists have achieved their aims, can we look forward to English nationalists demanding an English parliament with wall-raising powers?

Yours sincerely,
IAN BARCLAY,
34 Savile Road,
Lindley, Huddersfield,
West Yorkshire, England.
September 12.

From Professor Peter Fawcett

Sir, May we now expect Chris Smith to restore our border castles?

Yours sincerely,
A. PETER FAWCETT,
78 Park Road, Chilwell, Nottingham.
September 12.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Compassion and royal patronage

From Mr Alfred Morris

Sir, A word may be in order to redress any impression that the Prince of Wales does little of note to help those in special need. Nothing could be further from reality. His good works among deprived, not least disabled people are legion.

The British Polio Fellowship or SANE, to name just two of the very many organisations he has generously supported, would testify to his quiet, always well informed and intensely practical concern for the problems and needs of the hard-pressed people they exist to help.

At a recent occasion he hosted at Highgrove for the British Polio Fellowship, his instinctive rapport with some of Britain's most severely disabled people was immediately obvious to everyone there; but I saw or heard not one syllable in the media about a memorably moving occasion.

And sadly, kindliness that is unseen and unheard is usually also unsung.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED MORRIS (Minister for Disabled People, 1974-79)
20 Hitherwood Drive, SE19.

From Miss Rosina Buckland

Sir, The tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has been made even worse by the unfair criticism and hurtful speculation which has followed it. Some members of the public acted like the paparazzi whom they criticise — insisting on seeing an aspect of the Royal Family's life, their grief, that should be allowed to remain private.

I am also sad to see that this tragedy has exacerbated a tendency in Britain to be fatalistic about the state of the country. We are certainly changing as a nation, as we always have and always will. But why is it always assumed this is for the worse? Britain's reputation abroad has, according to a BBC survey this week, never been worse, but maybe it would help if we added constructive criticism and a more positive outlook to the fine traditions we already have.

Yours,
ROSINA BUCKLAND,
1-5-25-306 Hishiya-higashi,
Higashi-Osaka, Japan.
buckland@rexind.co.jp
September 10.

From the Reverend Paul Ingleshy

Sir, The country has travelled far since 1936, when I seem to have read some maxims of George V, including: "If I am called upon to suffer let me be like a well-bred animal and do so alone and in silence"; and "Learn to distinguish between sentiment and sentimentality".

Sincerely,
PAUL INGLESBY,
1 Curload, Stoke St Gregory,
Taunton, Somerset.

From Mr Adam Dinham

Sir, I share Mr Blair's hope that Diana's legacy will be "a better, more compassionate Britain". By this token, may the nation continue to remember the needy, and to support the work of all of Britain's charities, large and small, in calmer times as well as in the midst of tragedy.

Yours sincerely,
ADAM DINHAM
(Charity co-ordinator), University Information Consultation Service,
Grove Mews, 42 The Grove, W5.

Althorp memories

From Lady Anne Wake-Walker

Sir, The island in the middle of the lake at Althorp, always known to the family as the Round Oval, is a lovely resting place for Diana.

As children years ago, her father (my brother) and I had a wonderful time boating on the Round Oval in the summer and skating on it in the winter and it was always a special treat to be allowed to land on the island.

The lake is overlooked by the summer house from Admiralty House garden in London, said to have been used by Lord Nelson.

The beautiful Spencer Chapel in Great Brington Church was lovingly restored by my father, Jack Spencer, after the war and returned by him to its present glory.

I would have been entirely happy with either choice for Diana.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE WAKE-WALKER,
East Bergholt Lodge, Suffolk.
September 8.

Crime and punishment

From Mr Benjamin Kuras

Sir, A couple of Slovak women on a Princess Diana pilgrimage pick a few scruffy teddy bears to take home as souvenirs (report, September 12). A passer-by turns them over to the police, who charge them with theft. A magistrate sentences them to a month in jail. A judge frees them on appeal. All that at the British taxpayers' expense. The story becomes a major news item.

Is the Diana syndrome making this great nation go barmy?

Yours faithfully,
BENJAMIN KURAS,
80 Park Avenue North,
Willesden Green, NW10.
September 12.

Press inaction

From Mr T. C. Williams

Sir, Rightly or wrongly it has become the norm to call for action following a high-profile murder or tragedy. We now have no dangerous dogs, the only handguns are illegal ones and foxes may soon only be hunted with cars. Why are the press not calling for an instant legal ban on newspapers paying for intrusive pictures?

Or perhaps they are saving their strength for a go at the big one — a ban on hypocrisy.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR WILLIAMS,
1 Hillside, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
September 11.

'News not views'

From Mr Mark Marsh

Sir, Tony Hall, the chief executive of BBC News, could not be more wrong in my view in believing the lesson the BBC must learn from the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, is to "let the people speak" (article, Media, September 10). Opening the airwaves to the person on the street was a big mistake, no doubt forced by gaping holes in the blanket coverage, which led to the public airing of some very distasteful and ill-informed comments.

These were not the voices of "ordinary" individuals as Mr Hall suggests, but of those who felt sufficiently driven to hold vigils outside the palaces and queue all night in The Mall. The resultant "story" was about as objective as an opinion poll taken at a party conference.

As a novice press officer, I was once advised to focus on "news not views". It's a piece of advice I wish the BBC had followed last week.

Yours etc,
MARK MARSH,
5 Columbus Square, Erith, Kent.
mark@mjpm.demon.co.uk

Mother Teresa in a true perspective

From Mr Colin Harte

Sir, In my opinion, Mother Teresa (letters, September 9) is the woman of the century. Perhaps, in time, a biography of her will be written by someone who has an understanding of what it is to seek to love God with all one's heart, mind and soul; who understands the love due to every human being — whether poor, dying, unborn, royal, lonely or in prison — because each is made in God's image and of infinite value; who knows what it means to be a nun for 70 years, 50 of which were spent not simply working with the poor but sharing their poverty.

Such a biographer would recognise the inappropriateness of a jaundiced and controversial account of Mother Teresa's life. It is to be regretted that the present biographer (extracts September 9-11) fails to understand what lies "beyond the image".

Yours faithfully,
COLIN HARTE,
35 Stileham Bank,
Milborne St Andrew, Dorset.
September 11.

From Dr Rudrangshu Mukherjee

Sir, Your report, "Press casts doubts over legend of Mother Teresa" (September 8), states that *The Telegraph*, "normally gushing in its adulation of Mother Teresa", published on the day after her death "an acerbic feature article raising issues which would have been almost unthinkable to raise before".

The article is described as "unprecedented vitriol". But this is not the first time *The Telegraph* has carried adverse comment on Mother Teresa. On February 1 there was an article ("Halo goodbye") on the editorial page, and on April 19, 1996, a review of Christopher Hitchens's book *The Missionary Position*, both of which were critical of her. As is obvious, both appeared before her death.

The Telegraph acknowledges the work done by Mother Teresa but sees no reason to shy away from expressing different views and provoking discussion. This is not exactly unknown in journalism.

Yours faithfully,
RUDRANGSHU MUKHERJEE
(Editor, editorial pages),
The Telegraph,
6 Prafulla Sarkar Street,
Calcutta 700 001, India.
the_telegraph_india@newscom.com

From Mrs Sharla Race

Sir, Anne Sebba states that "Mother Teresa really has not changed anything in Calcutta" (Valerie Grove interview, September 8). What nonsense!

I do not believe she was perfect and I did not agree with all her views but as a volunteer bureau organiser I know she changed more lives in Calcutta, India and the rest of the world than we shall ever know.

Yours faithfully,
SHARLA RACE,
14 Zetland Terrace,
Saltburn by the Sea, Cleveland.
September 9.

Fears over rebirth of Crystal Palace

From Mr Philip Kolvin

Sir, You report ("A touch of glass for the millennium", September 8) that planning permission is expected for a modern Crystal Palace later this month. Not so. The Secretary of State for the Environment has forbidden Bromley Council from deciding the application until he has considered whether to hold a public inquiry and make the decision himself. He is right to do so.

The plans involve saddling Crystal Palace Park, the most important green open space in southeast London, with a 20-screen, 4,000-seat, multiplex cinema, with nine restaurants, probably a bowling alley, and parking for 1,100 cars on the roof. This hard commercial use will sit at the highest point of the park, urbanising it and dominating its setting.

The developers intend to drive a road through the park, which is both Grade II* listed and a conservation area. The site is also metropolitan open land, protected by the Government's strategic guidance for London, which states:

> Land of this importance should not be used for developments which compromise its open character and value to London's green setting.

There has been widespread public disquiet. At a recent public meeting, all but nine of the 600 attending voted to condemn the proposals. A petition has been signed by 5,000 local people. Croydon and Southwark councils, which also abut the park, have formally objected to the scheme. English Heritage has written to express its "strong opposition" to the access road, which would cause "unacceptable environmental harm within the park".

Bromley Council is in a position of conflict, as vendor of the land, promoter of the scheme and adjudicating planning authority. Its intentions are benign, to reinvest the £6 million sale proceeds into other schemes within the locality. But having regard to the level of public concern, the strategic impor-tance of the park, and the interest of the local planning authority, I urge the Secretary of State to intervene so that the future of this site may be properly debated.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. KOLVIN,
2-3 Gray's Inn Square, WC1.
September 8.

From Mr Mathew Frith

Sir, London Wildlife Trust is one of many organisations that view the Crystal Palace Park development as contrary to the guidance published on the future of our parks.

Our particular concerns are for the considerable loss of open space and wildlife habitat that will occur if this development goes ahead, and also the worrying precedent that it would set. If a building of this scale can be built in this park, what message does it send out for the future of the rest of London's parks?

Yours sincerely,
MATHEW FRITH
(Conservation manager),
London Wildlife Trust,
80 York Way, N1.

Facing both ways?

From Mr Christopher Montgomery

Sir, Are Madeleine Albright, who has suspended the extradition of convicted IRA terrorists to Britain in order to "advance the peace process" (report, later editions, September 11), and the US Secretary of State who is currently in the Middle East instructing the Palestinians to crack down on terrorism (report, September 11) by any chance related?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MONTGOMERY,
106 Horseferry Road, SW1.
September 11.

Poor understanding

From Mr Barry S. Hyman

Sir, Diana Mosley tells us ("The Mitfords at home", Weekend, September 6) that her family were unable to stay in their house in Gloucestershire "as we were too poor to live there". This is followed by an account of Swinbrook in Oxfordshire: "The village and land belonged to him [Lord Redesdale, her father]", and the house at Asthall, where he built stables, garages, kennels, cloisters and more bedrooms.

Could it be that Diana Mosley has the same understanding of the word "poor" that her husband had of the word "democracy"?

Yours faithfully,
BARRY HYMAN,
4 Priory View,
Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire.
barry@booshie.demon.co.uk

Worse and worse

From Mr Frederick Cosstick

Sir, Although a Liberal at heart, after reading all the recent correspondence on devolution, protocol, the monarchy and Anatole Kaletsky's Windows 95, I am beginning to have more sympathy with the old Conservative who said: "I am against all change — even change for the better."

Yours faithfully,
FRED COSSTICK,
3 High View Court,
Silverdale Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.
September 12.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 12: The Prince Edward, President, the Commonwealth Games Federation, this evening arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and was received by Tan Sri Hamzah Abu Samah (President, Olympic Council of Malaysia).

His Royal Highness later attended a Dinner given by the Lord Mayor of Kuala Lumpur at City Hall.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 12: The Princess Royal, Patron, Northern Lighthouse Board, this morning returned to Benbecula Airport having completed a three day visit to the west coast of the Hebrides, Western Isles.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 12: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon visited the Sir James Henderson British School of Milan, *Via Pisani Dossi*, Milan, and opened the new Lower School Library.

Her Royal Highness later arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Italy.

Mrs Jane Stevens was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 12: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester this morning visited the Hypobank building, Kirchberg, and afterwards visited the "Family of Man" exhibition at Château Clervaux.

Later Their Royal Highnesses were received by The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Luxembourg at Château de Berg.

This afternoon The Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, opened the "Britain in Luxembourg" exhibition at the International Fair Hall, Luxembourg.

Their Royal Highnesses arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening at the conclusion of their visit to Luxembourg.

Mrs Howard Page and Major Nicholas Barne were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 12: The Duke of Kent, Patron, the Royal Armouries Development Trust, this morning visited the Kremlin Armoury.

His Royal Highness, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon attended a Luncheon for Russian and British businessmen given by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Russian Federation (His Excellency Sir Andrew Wood) and opened the "Living Bridges" exhibition at the new *Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow.*

The Duke of Kent this evening arrived at Royal Air Force Northolt from Moscow, Russia.

Mr Nicolas Adamson was in attendance.

Royal engagements *this weekend*

TODAY:
The Princess Royal, Patron, Association of Wrens, will attend a reunion at the Festival Hall at 2.20.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron, Pestalozzi Children's Village Trust will attend a Festival of Culture to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Trust, Sedlescombe, East Sussex, at noon.

TOMORROW:
The Princess Royal will attend the European Championships at Burghley House, Stamford, Cambridge, at 11.00.

Church services are on page 16 of the Weekend section

Philip G. Balkwill

There will be a memorial service for Philip G. Balkwill at 11.30am on Saturday, October 4, 1997, in Memorial Chapel, Charterhouse, Godalming, Surrey.

Sir Thomas Lodge

A memorial service for Sir Thomas Lodge, former Consultant Radiologist in Sheffield, will be held at the Cathedral Church of St Marie, Norfolk Street, Sheffield, on Tuesday, September 30, at 2.30pm.

Butchers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Butchers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr George Adams; Wardens, Mr Graham Jackman, Mr John Jackman, Mr Douglas Noakes, Mr Michael Richardson, Mr William Parker.

School news

Aldro
Aldro celebrates the Centenary of the school's foundation during the forthcoming academic year. Term *commences on September 14.* Many events are planned throughout the 100th year. The Centenary Cricket Tour, captained by Nicholas Scott, departs for South Africa on October 22. The Centenary School Concert is on November 19. Term concludes with the Carol Service in Guildford Cathedral at 2.30pm on Thursday, December 18. Any Old Aldronians or former parents are invited to contact the Headmaster, Mr Ian M. Argyle, Aldro, Shackleford, Godalming, Surrey GU8 6AS. Tel: 01483 810266. Fax: 01483 409010. E Mail: hm@aldro.demon.co.uk

Ellesmere College
Michaelmas term at Ellesmere College began on September 7 with 380 in the school, an increase from 348 last year. James Williamson and Joanna Powell are Captains of School. Chris Hares is Captain of Rugby and Alex MacBryde is Captain of Girls' Hockey. Old Ellesmerians wishing to attend dinners in Manchester (October 17), S Wales (November 28), or West Midlands (February 27) should contact the school.

Giggleswick School
Term began on September 7 with 330 pupils in the School. Mr Richard Farmer has taken over as Housemaster of Nowell and Miss Sarah Williamson as Director of Studies. Charles Ford is Head of School, Richard Drake Captain of Rugby and Eleanor Atkinson Captain of Hockey. The refurbishment of Style House is complete. On Sunday, October 5, the Double Centenary of the Chapel's Foundation and the formation of the Old Giggleswickian Club will be celebrated with a special programme of Music and Drama. The Old Giggleswickian Wessex Lunch will take place in Newby on Sunday, October 12. The OG Yorkshire Dinner will be held in Leeds on Thursday, October 16, and the OG Lancashire Dinner will be on Thursday, November 27. Sixth Form Scholarship Day is Friday, November 14. Information on all these events is available from the Headmaster's Secretary Tel: 01729 823545. Fax: 01729 824187. E Mail: headmaster@giggleswick.n-yorks.sch.uk

Leeds Grammar School
The Michaelmas Term *commenced on Thursday, September* 11, in the new Junior School and Senior School buildings on the new 128 acre site at Alwoodley Gates under the continuing headship of Mr Bryan Collins. Mark Saunders is Head of School this *term; Philip Simon is Captain of* Rugby. The Old Lers' dinner will be held at Crag Lane on Friday, October 3. OLs' visiting mornings will be held on the new site on Saturdays. Details from the Development Office. Speech Day is on Tuesday, November 18, when the guest speaker will be Mr Michael Mayor, Chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference.

Westminster Abbey Choir School
Term started yesterday. The new Headmaster is Roger Overend. The Senior Chorister is Charles Richardson, Oliver-John Ruthven is Second Chorister and Head of School is Peter Portal. The new Foundation Choristers are Jonathan Kirk, Christopher Ford and Owen Bubbers. The Choir will be singing in Oslo in late October, will give a performance of *Messiah in the Abbey on December 5, and a* performance of *St Nicolas* by Britten in the Barbican Centre with the English Chamber Orchestra on December 15. The next voice trial will be on October 15. Enquiries welcome from parents of potential choristers, 0171-222 6151.

Service dinners

HMS Collingwood
Captain Jeff Blackett, the departing executive officer, was dined out *and Commander Paul Morris, the* new executive officer, was dined in, at a ladies night held at *HMS Collingwood* last night.

RN Medical Club
Admiral Sir Hugo White was the guest of honour at a Royal Navy Medical Club dinner, held last night at the Royal Marines Barracks Stonehouse, Plymouth.

Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
Major General Charles Ramsay, Colonel of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers & Greys), presided at their annual regimental dinner, held last night *in Edinburgh Castle.*

Queen's University Officers' Training Corps
Sir Gordon Beveridge, the departing Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast, was dined out by the university Officers' Training Corps last night at Tyrone House, Belfast. Lieutenant-Colonel G.C. Chesney, TD, RE (V), *Commanding Officer, presided.* Among those present were:
Col J.A. Creaney, TD, Honorary Colonel, Col (Retd) G.H. Baird, Chairman, TAVRA Northern Ireland, and Dr John Weaver, Chairman, Military Education Committee.

Dinner

Association of Anaesthetists
The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland held its Annual Dinner on Friday, September 12, at The Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, at the conclusion of the 1997 Annual Scientific Meeting, which was held at the Harrogate *International Centre. The President,* Dr W.L.M. Baird, and Mrs Baird welcomed the guests who included:
Professor and Mrs J.L. Benumof, San Diego; Professor and Mrs L. Strunin; Mr and Mrs A.J. Parker (Guest Speaker); Dr and Mrs W.P. Blunnie; *Dr and Mrs J.F. Nunn; Dr and Mrs* A.I.J. Brain; Dr M. Morgan.

Old Millhillians

The Old Millhillians Annual Midlands Dinner will be held at The County Club, George Row, Northampton, on Friday, September 26. Principal speakers will be William Winfield, Headmaster, Mill Hill School, and Jim Roberts, President, Old Millhillians Club. Old *Millhillians wishing to attend* should contact: John Perkins, The Shippen, Cattle Hill, Great Billing, Northampton, NN3 9DU. 01604 233200/407193 for more information.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: *Clara Schumann,* pianist and composer, Leipzig, 1819; John Smith, leader of the Labour Party 1992-94, Ardrishaig, Argyll, 1938.
DEATHS: James Wolfe, general, killed in the taking of Quebec, 1759; Leopold Stokowski, conductor, Nether Wallop, Hampshire, 1977.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Sir Peter Scott, naturalist and artist, London, 1909; Jack Hawkins, actor, London, 1910.
DEATHS: Dante Alighieri, poet, Ravenna, 1321; Isadora Duncan, dancer, Nice, 1927; Grace Kelly, Princess Grace of Monaco, killed in a car crash, Monte Carlo, 1982.

MIKE SEWELL

Jamie Onslow, of Richards Castle, near Ludlow, Shropshire, and Michaela Sims of Bridgend, South Wales, who are to marry in September next year

Black radishes at autumn show

BY ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A BLACK radish, an aubergine resembling a purple banana, and black-leaved coleus are some of the more unusual exhibits at the Harrogate Autumn Flower Show.

The radish "Black Spanish" is one of a large collection of root vegetables from Leeds City Council and *Gardening Which?*, grown and staged by Joe Maiden.

The display includes many more radishes, 14 different beetroot, including white, pink, red-striped and orange, and more conventional root vegetables, totalling more than 100 different kinds.

Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, have included the unusual aubergine, named "Ping Tung Long" in a comprehensive collection of culinary and ornamental peppers and aubergines. The display, which is highly decorative, also includes hot chilli peppers and aubergine "Oba" with white egg-shaped fruits.

The black-leaved coleus "Black Prince" is one of a large collection of named cultivars of coleus staged by Templenewsam Park, Leeds.

Some have been grown as standards (like small mop-headed trees) and columns, others in hanging baskets and, more conventionally, as bushes. Unusual colours abound, such as yellow leaved "Lemon Drop" and orange "Winter Sun".

The show, which opened yesterday, is strong on vegetables and fruits. W. Robinson and Sons, of Fulton, Lancashire, have staged a colourful display of vegetables which inclues one of the newest red *onions "Red Baron", a cultivar* especially favoured for cooking because of its small size.

A collection of more than 65 different kinds of apple, and other fruits, grown in North Yorkshire has been staged by R.B. Roger of Pickering, and Ampleforth Abbey, the Roman Catholic boys' college near York. The display also shows *training techniques for fruit trees.*

Among the roses, a cottage rose named "Harlow Carr", with old-fashioned-shape coral pink flowers, is making its debut. Shown by C. and K. Jones, of Tarbin, Chester, it commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens.

The best exhibits in the show, which have received a premier award, are: *W Robinson and Sons, of* Fulton Lancashire (Vegetables); C and K Jones of Tarbin, Chester (roses); Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens, Harrowgate, North Yorkshire (peppers and aubergines), North of England Bonsai Association of Old Earswick, North Yorkshire (bonsai); Glenedd Violets of Sutton Bridge Lincolnshire (saintpaulias); Heartside Garden Nursery of Alston, Cumbria (alpines); Steven Bailey, of Sway, Hampshire (carnations and pinks), *The Plant Lovers, of Candlesby,* Lincolnshire (cactus and other succulents); Pinewood Bonsai, of Formby, Liverpool (bonsai); Fir Trees Pelargonium Nursery, of Stokesley, *Cleveland (Pelargoniums); Green*acre Nursery, of Southport, Lancashire (carnations and pinks); and Park Green Nurseries, of Stowmarket, Suffolk (hostas and ornamental grasses).

Other highlights are flower arrangements and exhibit and competitions from 12 specialist societies.

The show, organised by the North of England Horticultural Society and held at the Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, North Yorkshire is open today from 9.30 *am to 6pm, and tomorrow from 9.30* am to 5.30pm.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.W.A. Williams and Miss J.J.G. Spencer
The engagement is announced between Daniel, younger son of Baroness Falkender, of Marylebone, London, and Jessica, only daughter of the late Mr J.M.N. *Spencer* and of Mrs J. Spencer, of Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire.

Dr P. Birch and Miss M. Scott
The marriage takes place today at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, between Dr Peter Birch, of Vevey, *Switzerland,* and Miss Michelle Scott, of Nottingham.

Mr J.P. Kay and Miss L.R. Graham
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Philip and Patricia, of Torbay, Devon, and Lucinda, eldest daughter of David and Rosemary, of Rottingdean, Sussex.

Mr G.O.S. Korner and Miss C.A. Wickham
The marriage will take place today between Giles Oliver Sholto, only son of Mr and Mrs Roger Korner, of Mudeford, Dorset, and Claire Ann, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Wickham, of Chiddingfold, Surrey.

Mr R.W. McVean and Miss L. Hession
The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of Captain and Mrs Andrew McVean, of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, and Laura, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Hession, of *Wilmslow, Cheshire.*

Comte G. de Montalivet and Miss C.O. Maunsell
The engagement is announced between Gaëtan, eldest son of the Comte and Comtesse de Montalivet, of Paris, and Charlotte, eldest daughter of Colonel and Mrs Robert Maunsell, of Fittleton, Salisbury.

***Mr J. Parkhouse* and Señorita A. Jamarillo Garcia**
The engagement is announced between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs T. Parkhouse, of Marylebone, London, and Angelica, daughter of Señora Luz Maria Jamarillo de Garcia and the late Señor Jaime Jamarillo, of Mexico City.

Mr S.J. Phillips and Miss F.J. Parkin
The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr Stewart Phillips, of Yarton, Somerset, and Mrs Janice Pavey, of Weymouth, Dorset, and Fiona, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Parkin, of Grantham, Lincolnshire.

Mr H.S. Robertson and Miss N.H. Sambrook-Smith
The engagement is announced between Hugh Sebastian, eldest son of Mr Nander Robertson and the late Mrs Robertson, of Stirlingshire, and Naomi Henrietta, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Sambrook-Smith, of Buckinghamshire.

Mr M.D. Shennan and Miss V.A. Litherland
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Major and Mrs Malcolm Shennan, of *Rimpton,* Somerset, and Victoria, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs William Litherland, of Wedmore, Somerset.

Mr D.N. Spencer and Miss K.C. McManus
The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs Malcolm Spencer, of Harborne, Birmingham, and Katharine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter McManus, of Winchester, Hampshire.

Marriages

Mr D. Parsons and Miss A. Chadwick
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 6, at St Margaret's, Cley-next-the-sea, Norfolk, of Mr David Parsons, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Parsons, of Southstoke, Avon, to Miss Andre Chadwick, *daughter of Rev Professor* and Mrs Owen Chadwick, of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire.

***Mr J.F. Poë* and Miss E.D. Hand**
The marriage took place on Saturday, August 30, at St George's Church, Hanover Square, W1, of Mr Francis Poë, son of Major and Mrs John Poë, to Miss Elizabeth Hand, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Hand.

Weekend birthdays

The Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy will be 69 tomorrow.

TODAY:
The Marquess of Ailsa, 41; Miss Carol Barnes, broadcaster, 53; Miss Jacqueline Bisset, actress, 53; Lieutenant-General Sir Derek Boorman, 67; Sir John Coulson, diplomat, 88; Sir George Engle, QC, former First Parliamentary Counsel, 71; Baroness Fisher of Rednal, 78; Mr Niall FitzGerald, chairman, Unilever, 52; Lord Flowers, FRS, 73; Mr George Foggon, former Foreign Office adviser, 84; Professor Sir John Gurm, natural philosopher, 81; the Duke of Hamilton, 59; Mr Goran Ivanisevic, tennis player, 26; Lord Moynihan, 42; the Right Rev George Noakes, former Archbishop of Wales, 73; Mr Tony *Pickard, tennis coach, 63; Sir* Thomas Risk, former Governor, Bank of Scotland, 75; Mr Robert Sheldon, MP, 74; Mr George Staple, former Director, Serious Fraud Office, 57; Mr James Stuart-Smith, QC, former Judge Advocate General, 78; Professor Sir Keith Sykes, anaesthetist, 72; Mr Keith Thompson, former Vice-Chancellor, Staffordshire University, 65; Mr Mel Torme, singer, 72; Mr Shane Warne, cricketer, 28; Lord Weidenfeld, 78.

TOMORROW:
Miss Sandra Blow, painter, 72; *Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, CH, 81;* Professor J.F. Coales, FRS, electrical engineer, 90; Sir James Cobban, former Headmaster, Abingdon School, 87; Vice-Admiral Sir William Crawford, 90; Lord Dean of Harptree, 73; Mr Martyn Hill, tenor, 53; Mr Michael Howard, composer and conductor, 75; Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey, *75; Mr Ray Wilkins, footballer, 41;* Mr Nicol Williamson, actor, 59; Lord Willoughby de Broke, 59; Mr Martin Wyld, chief restorer, National Gallery, 53.

The Who in 1983: Roger Daltrey, John Entwistle, Kenney Jones and Pete Townshend

ROCK

The Who
National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham

When loud rock bands perform in huge arenas, whose interiors are patterned after aircraft hangars, the sound itself becomes an instrument. A minor change of ensemble texture can seem to alter the density of the very air, heightening the intensity. It is an effect achieved through experience won on lengthy tours of the massive halls of America, and The Who are its masters.

When, that is, they are not riven by the kind of internal strife which disfigured their last British tour a couple of years ago, of course, their volatility has become legend: it has carried them through extended periods when they made substandard music, or even no music at all. It was probably at the root of the announcement a couple of weeks ago that the present concerts would be their last (although their spokesmen were quick to announce, once extra tickets had been sold on the strength of their imminent farewell, that this had been a "misunderstanding").

On Saturday night this elderly group delivered 24 songs in two hours with polish, panache and evident enjoyment. Only once or twice was there a suggestion that Pete Townshend, whose devilment is born out of an honest self-dissatisfaction, might wish to send the group hurtling off the rails. In general the performance was as compact and unsurprising as their early shows were erratic and electrifying.

The highlights of any show by The Who, therefore, are likely to be provided by the old songs. This time they included "Substitute", "I Can't Explain" and the under-regarded "Naked Eye" which has some of his most moving lines. More recent material such as the inflated "Sister Disco" and the rowdy new "Cry if You Want" sounds tame by comparison.

Townshend probably knows this: Roger Daltrey the singer who has acted as his mouthpiece for almost two decades probably does not.

Nonetheless it was impossible neither to feel a tug when the house lights went up during the inevitable medley from *Tommy*, nor to be warmed by the triptych of encores which included "Shaky All Over", "Twist and Shout" (with a raging vocal treatment by John Entwistle and "Summertime Blues". The latter, an Eddie Cochran song whose words and music played a vital role in shaping Townshend's compositional style, was a particularly appropriate choice; outside there was an autumnal nip in the West Midlands air.

Richard Williams

ON THIS DAY

September 13, 1982

Fifteen years ago, when this review appeared, The Who were described as an elderly group

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People do not lay to heart the truth that those whom God has chosen enjoy his grace and mercy, and that he comes to the help of his holy people. Wisdom of Solomon 4 : 15

BIRTHS

ANDERSON - To Rachel and Alastair on September 10th, 1997, at St Mary's Hospital, Southsea, a son, a brother for Peter.

BARROW - On September 10th, to Vanessa (née Branch) and David, a daughter, Matilda (Tilly), a sister for Robert and William.

CHURCH - On September 4th 1997 at Banbury, to Kara and Jonathan, a daughter, Eleanor Sasha Anne, a sister for Jasper.

EWART - On September 4th 1997, to Judith (née Shephard) and David, a son, Nicholas David.

FOX - On September 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Justin and Stephanie, a beautiful *daughter, Lily.*

HUGGINS - On Thursday 11th September 1997, to Mia (née Taylor) and Mark, a son, James George Ufe, a brother for Lily Emma and Eleanor Grace.

HUTCHINSON - On 11th September, to Louise (née FitzGibbon) and Ian, a daughter, Holly Rebecca Louise.

IPKENDANZ - On September 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Diane and *Andrew, a son, Maximilian,* a brother for Claudia and Isabella.

BIRTHS

KALLAWAY - On September 6th 1997, to Kathy (née Roberts) and Mike, a son, *William George, a welcome* brother for Alice.

MILLS - On September 8th at The Portland Hospital, to *Annmarie (née McIntyre)* and Vernon, a daughter, Brianna, a sister for Chantelle.

MORRIS - On September 5th at The Portland Hospital, to Heather and Paul, a daughter, Alexandra Emerson.

MOULDER - On September 8th, to Jenny (née Lance) and Richard, a daughter, Olivia Charlotte, a sister for Harry and Isobel.

PLATT - On September 9th at *Chelsea and Westminster* Hospital, to Helen (née Sanderson) and Michael, a son, Marcus Henry Sanderson.

ROWE - On 8th September 1997, to Tamara (née Warner) and Nigel, a *daughter, Amelia Stephanie.*

STOREY - On September 10th, to Peter and Lisa (née Woodhall), a son, Jay Terence, baby brother for Jourdan Amelia.

WATKINS - On September 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Terry and Tom, a daughter, Kate Nicole.

ANNIVERSARIES

HUGGETT-CLARK - *To Steve,* may there be many more, love you loads, Love Lynda.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

ALEXANDER-REES - Jill and Sandy, 14th September 1957, St. Giles, Ickenham. Thankyou. J.D. V.L. J.L. E.S

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

BROOMAN - On 13th September 1947, Fred and Chrissie of Weybridge, Surrey.

DEATHS

BISHOP - Dennis Peacefully at his home in Hereford on 10th September. Dearly loved husband of Pat and father of Sally and Claire. For Funeral details please contact Bayley Brothers, Cotterell Street, Hereford. Tel: 01432 272465.

CRICK - Marjorie Frances, aged 93, on September 11th 1997 peacefully at Park House Nursing Home, Peterborough. Service at 3.30 pm on Wednesday September 17th at Peterborough Crematorium, Mowbray Road, Peterborough. Donations if desired to Parkinson's *Disease Society c/o John* Lucas F/D, 31 Dogsthorpe Road, Peterborough PE1 3AE.

DEATHS

EDWORTHY - Jo. Well loved wife, mother, grandmother and friend. Died suddenly and *peacefully at home on* 10th September. 71 years young. Vigil Mass at 8 pm Wednesday 17th and funeral to be held at 11 am Thursday 18th at St Michael's Catholic Church, Battle. No flowers please, but donations to the British *Heart Foundation, Cancer* Research Fund or CAFOD would be appreciated.

ELRICK - Low Fell, in hospital on September 11th aged 88 years, Jean McKelvie, former *school teacher in Gateshead.* Sadly missed by all who knew her. Would friends please meet at Saltwell Crematorium, Gateshead, on Tuesday September 16th at 1.30 pm for service. Flowers may be sent to J.M. & E. Ovington & Son, 28 Ravensworth Road, Birtley. Private afterwards.

EVANS - On 11th September 1997, peacefully at home in Guernsey, Phyllis Miriam (née Carter) beloved wife of the late Arthur, dearly loved mother of Pamela, Patricia, Margaret, Janet and the late *Christine, and a much loved* mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother.

PARLOW - On 11th September 1997 Leslie Kingston peacefully after a long *illness, husband of the late* Anna, father of Marilyn and loving grandfather. You meant so much to all your friends and family, we will miss you and will always treasure your memory. Service at the Woodvale Crematorium, Lewes Road, *Brighton, on Tuesday 16th* September at 12 noon. Flowers or donations if desired to Cancer Research c/o Hanningtons F/D, 4/6 Montefiore Road, Hove, tel: (01273) 778733.

PURIS-HARWELL - Kaushalya of 1A Mitre Court Buildings, Inner Temple, London. Beloved wife of John Cowper Hurwell. Passed away on 10th September 1997.

STEPHENSON - Thelma on 11th September at Salisbury *Hospital aged 94,* of Amesbury Abbey. Devoted wife of the late John Stephenson, daughter of the late Captain Edward Unwin VC, RN, and Evelyn Unwin. Dear "Auntie Harma" to Christopher, Johanna and Nick. Funeral Service at 12 *noon Wednesday 17th* September at Amesbury Parish Church.

SULLIVAN - Peacefully at Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary, after an illness, *on 10th September 1997,* John Barry Sullivan, Corsock, Scotland (formerly of Hastings) Very sadly missed by all his family, especially his children and grandchildren. Funeral Service at Corsock Church on Wednesday 17th September at 11.00am. Followed by interment in Corsock Churchyard.

TURNER - On September 11th at Linford Park Nursing Home, Francis Logan M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.A. aged 85. Ever loved and loving husband of Elizabeth, father of Margaret, Robert and Christopher and grandfather of Marianne, Mark, Paul, *Miles and Charlie. All* enquiries to Barrow Bros., Funeral Directors, Tel: 01425 472104.

TURNER - Diana Mary died peacefully on Thursday 11th September in her 81st year in Co. Tipperary Funeral 12 noon Monday 15th September at Templemore.

WILLIS - H.H. Judge Colin on *September 9th 1997.* Treasured friend and companion to his wife, children, John and Rhyddian and an inspiration to his much loved grandchildren, William and Thomas. Family funeral. Service of Thanksgiving on Saturday September 20th at 3.30 pm Church of the Holy Cross, Sherston. Please no flowers. Donations to the Intensive *Care Unit Fund, Frenchay* Hospital c/o Albion Chambers, Bristol.

IN MEMORIAM — WAR

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IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

CROKE - Peter died September 13th 1986. Fax Tucum, Audrey.

PROCTER - Ernest Leonard born 13th September 1897. A dearly loved father and counsellor.

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OBITUARIES

SERGE PERETTI

Serge Peretti, ballet dancer and teacher, died in Paris on August 20 aged 92. He was born in Venice on January 28, 1905.

FOR well over half a century Serge Peretti served the Ballet of the Paris Opera, first as one of its finest dancers, then as a teacher of distinction.

The most surprising thing about Peretti's career is that his dancing days were at their peak during the 1930s, when Serge Lifar was ballet master at the Paris Opera and himself danced in most of the ballets. Yet Peretti was not eclipsed by his boss.

Some commentators insisted that Peretti had the stronger technique, and he was almost universally praised for his more graceful manner. Boris Kochno, in his history, *Le Ballet en France*, remarked that in the many ballets he created starring both of them, Lifar entrusted to Peretti "the roles appropriate to display his technique, his elegance, his style, while directing his own roles towards athleticism and character".

Peretti was already in place when Lifar joined the Opera in 1929 following the death of Serge Diaghilev, whose last great discovery he had been. Lifar's debut as both dancer and choreographer was on the Beethoven *Creatures of Prometheus*. Lifar played Prometheus with Peretti and the illustrious Russian ballerina Olga Spessivtseva as the man and woman he creates.

As a child, Peretti was left by his unmarried 16-year-old mother to be brought up in Milan by his grandmother and an aunt. It was, apparently, a bohemian, artistic household and the boy had already begun to paint before deciding at 12 that he wanted to dance. Applying to the school of the Paris Opera, he found that he was beyond the statutory age for entry but managed to get himself accepted.

Six years later, in 1923, Peretti made his debut as Alfred in the *premiere* of *La Nuit ensorcelée*, starring the reigning ballerina Carlotta Zambelli, with scenario and designs by Leon Bakst. Soon followed a role as Celestial Vision in *Istar*, mounted for the legendary *monstre sacre* Ida Rubinstein; also a part made for him by Bronislava Nijinska, partnering Spessivtseva in *Les Rencontres*.

By the time Lifar arrived as ballet master, Peretti had played Dorkon in Fokine's *Daphnis and Chloe* and danced several other roles made for him by Albert Aveline, Léo Staats and Nicola Guerra, the regular house choreographers, and by the Swedish ballerina Carina Ari, who danced with him. Then all through the Thirties and during the Second World War Peretti had leading roles in many new productions.

Among the more important were: Lifar's *Salade*, *Bolero*, *Le Chevalier et la Damoiselle*, *Joan de Zarissa* and *Guignol et Pandore*; Aveline's *La Grisi* and *Elvire*; Ivan Clustine's production of *La Péri*; and revivals of *Les Deux Pigeons*, *La Korrigane*, *Namouna* and Lulli's *Le Triomphe de l'Amour*. He partnered all the ballerinas in turn, from Camille Bos and Suzanne Lorcia to Lycette Darsonval and Yvette Chauviré. In 1941 Peretti became the first man to be given the rank and privileges of an *étoile* or star dancer, a title previously reserved for the ballerinas.

After the war Lifar was temporarily expelled from the Opera on unproved allegations of collaboration. Peretti was made acting ballet master and created the only new ballet premiered in that period, *L'Appel de la Montagne*, to music by Honegger, starring Chauviré and himself. However, amid the disputes surrounding Lifar, Peretti decided to withdraw and undertook a long South American tour with a group of colleagues. Returning to Paris in 1948, he began teaching the boys at the Opera's ballet school.

Serge Peretti's only appearances in London were made heading the bill for a week of "Stars of the Dance", at the Princes (now Shaftesbury) Theatre in August 1949. He and the ballerina Nina Vyroubova made an impression, especially in a Chopin *Ballade* of which Peretti was joint choreographer, in spite of poor musical and decorative presentation.

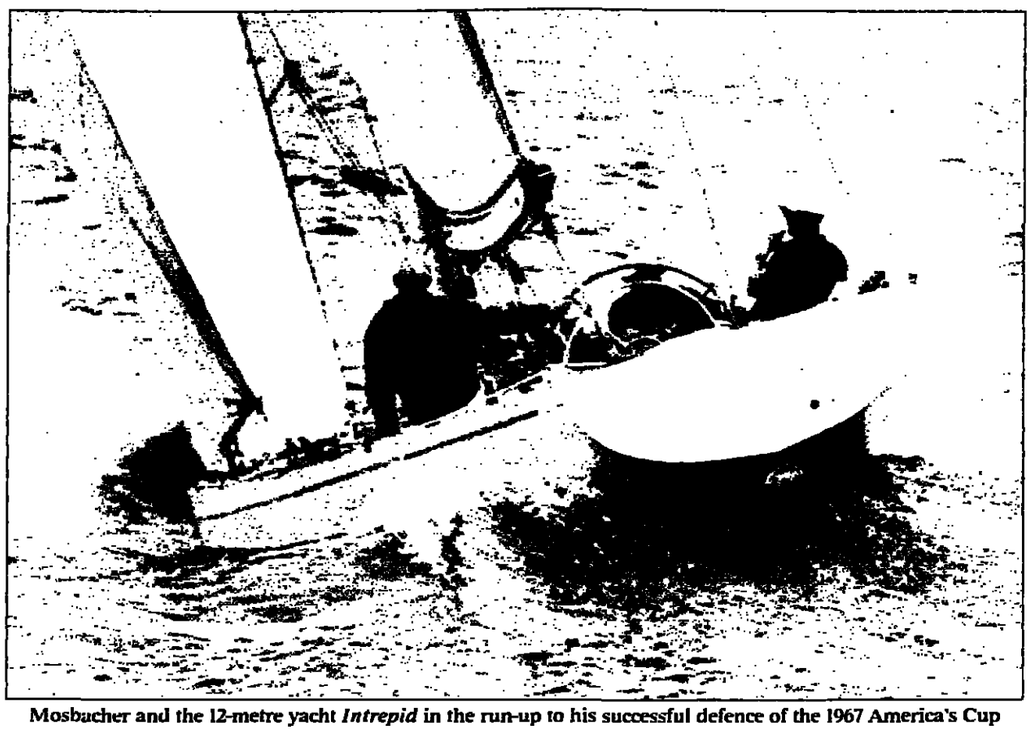
For a time Peretti ran his own school in Paris before returning to the Opera as teacher of the *étoiles*. Even after his retirement from dancing, occasional guest performances — as Dr Coppelius, or the Showman in *Petrushka* — served as a reminder of his gifts. Happily, a documentary film about him was completed shortly before his death, with archive shots of his past dancing and a sequence of him coaching several of his former pupils.

Peretti never married.

Serge Peretti as Dr Coppelius, a favourite role

BUS MOSBACHER

Emil (Bus) Mosbacher, American yachtsman, died on August 13 aged 75. He was born on April 1, 1922.



Mosbacher and the 12-metre yacht *Intrepid* in the run-up to his successful defence of the 1967 America's Cup

The winner of the America's Cup in 1962 and 1967, Bus Mosbacher was one of America's finest postwar yachtsmen. His skill at the helm and tactics on the racecourse almost certainly saved the New York Yacht Club and its defender *Weatherly* from losing the America's Cup to Australia in 1962.

On that occasion, in addition to his aggressive and sometimes wily tactics, his iron-fisted rule over his crew and awesome attention to detail staved off a superior challenge from Jock Sturrock's faster Australian challenger *Gretel*, owned by the newspaper tycoon Sir Frank Packer; no one was to get close again until Alan Bond and his *Australia II* crew finally wrested the famous trophy away from the American club for the first time, 21 years later.

Mosbacher, only the second Jewish member to be elected to the staunchly conservative New York Yacht Club, was invited to join specifically to defend the Cup against what was known from the start to be a strong Australian challenge; he was drawn back to fight off a second Australian challenge in 1967. This he did on his own terms, playing a key role in drawing up the rig and layout of the radically designed *Intrepid*. His crew trounced Jock Sturrock's *Dame Pattie* (which was nicknamed "Damned Pity") 4-0.

A lifelong sailor, Mosbacher later organised several spectacular tall ship events in New York, starting with a 200-strong fleet that assembled for Operation Sail in 1976 and again ten years later to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty. He oversaw a third gathering of sail in 1992 to mark the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World.

Mosbacher was Chief of Protocol during the tricky years of the Nixon Administration from 1969 to 1972, and a year later Nelson Rockefeller appointed him to head the New York State Racing and Wagering Board at a $75,000 annual salary — a level of remuneration that was exceeded in US public service only by the President and the Governor of New York State.

For Mosbacher, the money was unimportant. The son of a Wall Street broker who had the foresight to sell his stock just before the 1929 crash, he was a multi-millionaire in his own right, having inherited his father's real estate, oil and gas empire. His salary was an issue for the voters though, and this, coupled with his lack of experience in the horse racing world, caused considerable controversy in the 1974 gubernatorial election, and led to his resignation.

His nickname "Bus" was short for "Buster", a label given to him at birth by a hospital nurse. Sailing came shortly after. His father put him in a dinghy at five and he was given his first boat, a Star class Olympic keelboat at the age of nine. By the time he was 14 he had won the Midget championship and two years later sailed to victory in the US national championship.

His father was something of a taskmaster who wanted nothing but success for his son and this undoubtedly shaped young Mosbacher's will to win. At the time of his first national victory, Mosbacher senior said of his son: "The thing that made me mad was his extreme conservatism — especially with money. I remember once he was racing in the Star class during Manhasset Race Week. I went down to the dock to check out the boat and noticed that his sheets were frayed. He had never even mentioned it to me. Hell, I would have been glad to replace them. I got so mad I slashed the sails."

After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1943 Bus Mosbacher enlisted in the US Navy and after the war joined his father to help to manage the family fortune. He did not return to sailing until 1949 when he found instant success in the highly competitive International One Design class, winning the championships for eight years in succession. Sailing a six metre, he also won the British-American Cup in the Solent.

By 1958 he was generally acknowledged as the best small-boat skipper in the US, and won the job of steering John Matthews's 12-metre *Vim*, the slowest boat in that year's America's Cup defence trials. Remarkably, Mosbacher's mastery of match racing almost carried her to victory. He did it by harassing his opponents during the prestarts, tailing them so closely that they could neither tack nor gybe. These tactics, once regarded as ungentlemanly, are now accepted at all levels of match racing. Explaining this aggressiveness, Mosbacher once said: "In match racing, the idea is to find your opponent's Achilles' heel — then sink your teeth into it!"

In 1962 he skippered *Weatherly* through the Cup trials to defend against the vastly superior Australian challenger, *Gretel*. The Australian boat won the first race after a large wave helped her crew to surf ahead at a crucial stage, but as *Time* magazine put it: "What Bus did to Jock Sturrock in the four races that won *Weatherly* the Cup should not have happened to a kangaroo."

Instead of using his normal brute force and intimidating tactics, Mosbacher employed great guile. When *Gretel* looked certain to sail past in another race, he called for a spinnaker change. There was no need for it, but the Australians assumed there was and followed suit, and the resulting loss of speed cost them the race. In another close encounter, Mosbacher noticed that whenever Sturrock was about to change course, he grabbed the bottom of *Gretel*'s wheel, yet whenever he faked the move, his hands never left the sides. As a result, the Americans ignored the false moves and simply sailed away to win the series 4-1.

After retaining the Cup, he said "never again" and stuck to his word during the next series in 1964. But he was finally drawn back by the promise from the Philadelphia banker William Strawbridge that Mosbacher could have the final say with everything to do with the *Intrepid* challenge. The Australian challenger *Dame Patty* was no match and *Intrepid* sailed away to win the Cup 4-0.

Bus Mosbacher is survived by his wife Patricia, and three sons.

PHILIP VELLACOTT

Philip Vellacott, schoolmaster and translator, died on August 24 aged 90. He was born on January 16, 1907.

LOVE of Greek literature brought Philip Vellacott distinction in two fields. He was a fine teacher, exercising a classical rigour over staff and boys at Dulwich College, and a noted translator of many of the plays of Ancient Greece.

Philip Humphrey Vellacott was a scholar of St Paul's School before going up to Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he was taught by Stanley Vernon-Jones and took a first in both parts of the Classical Tripos. For three years he taught at Westminster College, Cambridge, where Presbyterian (now United Reformed Church) ministers are trained; he became resident tutor there in his third year. After spells lecturing at Liverpool University and teaching at the Royal School, Dungannon, and Stockport Grammar School, he joined the staff of Dulwich College in September 1942. There he remained for 25 years, until his retirement.

He was an outstanding teacher of Classics, particularly Greek, and was also the complete schoolmaster. There was about him an aura of scholarship befitting the wearer of a distinctive ragged gown (which gradually turned green over the years), and his searching eyes could shame common-room colleagues into thinking harder than they had for years about an argument in Plato, a choral ode in *Oedipus* or the meanings of a line of *King Lear*.

He was a wise and kindly form master, and a stickler for detail ("My name is Vellacott: two l's and two t's"). He once set his upper sixth to translate the English version of a piece from Isocrates into Greek. One boy recognised the source, and submitted the original. Vellacott made a few corrections and awarded it eight out of ten.

He founded the Attic Players, a mixed group from the college and his friends who for twenty years performed the classics of Greek drama in the original language. He also

regularly produced the school play, in which he so steeped himself that on one occasion he was able, at a few hours' notice, to take over the part of one of the principal actors, who had been struck down by flu. His knowledge of Shakespeare was remarkable. In 1963 he was elected the first president of the common room, in recognition of his unquestioned authority and reasonableness in all clashes between young and old on questions of discipline or good taste.

Vellacott was the author of a school textbook, *Ordinary Latin*, but it was as the translator of many of the texts from the Classics for Penguin that he won an international reputation. He translated *The Oresteia* for the BBC in 1956, and it was subsequently published as a Penguin with enormous success.

For twenty years he worked on further translations for the BBC producer Raymond Raikes, who also broadcast Vellacott's own plays and talks. The translations became important and highly regarded features of Betty Radice's extensive Classics list for Penguin, and eventually included the whole of Aeschylus and all 17 plays of Euripides. These are still in print, and will remain available even as fresh translations are published.

Vellacott also wrote studies of each of the three Attic tragedians whose work survives, drawing upon his long and close involvement with their texts, and lectured on the Greeks regularly in the United States. He was Visiting Professor of Classics at Santa Cruz University in California.

He continued to work until well over 80, and was always able to illustrate his points with simple examples. "How ridiculous," he once said, "that the notice reads 'Use the footbridge to cross the line'. It should, of course, read 'To cross the line, use the footbridge'." Such fastidiousness has its rewards: Vellacott could take delight, for instance, in the unfailing logic of Cicero's word order.

No walker could keep pace with him without running two or three steps in every ten, whether along Dulwich Common or on Snowdon, where he was usually to be found on New Year's Day. He was an accomplished pianist.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, whom he married in 1939, and by two sons (one adopted) and two daughters.

MILESTONES

Mother Teresa, Roman Catholic Missionary, died on September 5 aged 87. She was born in Albania on August 27, 1910.

On a train journey to Darjeeling in 1946, Mother Teresa, then Principal of St Mary's School in a rich area of Calcutta, received what she described as "the call within a call", which led her to work for the rest of her life with the very poorest of people. In 1949 her first ten followers formed the Missionaries of Charity, and three years later they opened a religious home for dying destitutes.

Eventually, those helping with this work were to number tens of thousands from more than 40 countries. In 1979 she won the Nobel Peace Prize and renewed her calls for the outlawing of abortion. Her emphasis on contemplation and prayer rather than diagnosis was controversial, but she was widely regarded as a "living saint".

Obituary published on September 6 (most editions).

Jeffrey Bernard, journalist and eponymous hero of a West End hit, died on September 4 aged 65. He was born on May 27, 1932.

A lover of smoking, drinking, gambling and women, Jeffrey Bernard lived most of his life in Soho, indulging in all four. In the 1960s he began writing about racing, and worked for *Private Eye* and *The Sporting Life*. But it was "Low Life", his column in *The Spectator*, later described as "a suicide note in instalments", that brought him fame. In 1989, his friend Keith Waterhouse had a West End hit with a dramatic entertainment named after the line often printed by *The Spectator*, "Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell".

Obituary published on September 8.

Sir Georg Solti, KBE, conductor, died on holiday in the South of France on September 5 aged 84. He was born in Budapest on October 21, 1912.

Born Gyuri Stern to a closely knit Jewish Hungarian family in Budapest, Georg Solti studied under Bartók, Dohnányi and Kodály. After work as a repetiteur with Toscanini in 1937, he was asked to conduct *Figaro* in Budapest. That evening the Nazis marched into Austria. Solti left abruptly for Switzerland. After the war he became music director in Munich, conducting *Der Rosenkavalier* in Richard Strauss's presence. He recorded an acclaimed *Ring* cycle. He spent the 1960s as music director at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. He then took the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to heights unrivalled in America, and worked with the London Philharmonic.

Obituary published September 8.

Professor H. J. Eysenck, former Professor of Psychology at the University of London Institute of Psychiatry, died on September 4 aged 81. He was born on March 4, 1916.

Hans Eysenck was the most prolific writer on psychology of his era. A refugee from the Nazis, he was later attacked for his work on IQ and the importance of genes in the formation of character, which was forever to overshadow his wide range of other inquiries.

Obituary published September 8.

Mobutu Sese Seko, President of Zaire, 1965-97, died on September 7 aged 66. He was born on October 14, 1930.

Mobutu brutally misruled the former Congo for 32 years, presiding over a complete collapse of the economy, and amassing a vast personal fortune in the process.

Obituary published on September 9.

General Sir John Hackett, Commander-in-Chief, British Army of the Rhine, 1966-68, and Principal of King's College London, 1968-75, died on September 9 aged 86. He was born on November 5, 1910.

One of the most intelligent of military men, Hackett won the MC, DSO and Bar during the Second World War. He left the Army for academic life in 1968, and was much in demand as a military commentator.

Obituary published September 10.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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MCGRATH, THERESA MARY OF 24 Carroll Close, London E15 1ES died on 17 March 1997 particulars to DOWSE & CO Solicitors of 229 / 235 CAMDEN HIGH STREET, LONDON NW1 7BU before 15 November 1997.

GLYNN, ROSE of Afton Manor, 45-47 Whalley Road, Whalley Range, Manchester died on 28 February 1997 particulars to BRYAN O'CONNOR & CO Solicitors of ST MARGARET'S HOUSE, 18/20 SOUTHWARK STREET, LONDON SE1 1TS before 15 November 1997

MARGARET EMILY ROSIER of Highlands 122 Andover Road Newbury Berkshire 28th August 1997 particulars to CHARLES LUCAS & MARSHALL (Ref:MJO) Solicitors, 28 Bartholomew Street Newbury Berkshire RG14 5EU before 18th November 1997

MATHIESSEN, BERTEL COLLEY, Upton Leigh, Overton Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire died 26th May 1997, particulars to Biddle & Co (Reference 6) Solicitors, 1 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7BU before 1st December 1997.

MATTHEWS, KIM ANNETTE (otherwise KIM ANNETTE HARRISON) of 49 St Marys Avenue, Shoeburyness, Stanley, East died on 13 July 1997 particulars to DAWSON CORNWELL & CO Solicitors of 16 RED LION SQUARE, LONDON WC1R 4QT before 15 November 1997

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NEWS

Labour imposes new pay freeze

■ Nurses and doctors are due for disappointment when the Cabinet imposes its own freeze on the £80 billion public sector pay bill. Nurses underlined their hopes of 20 per cent pay rises and doctors prepared to announce a claim for double-digit increases. Ministers indicated that they would not be moved by the clamour for a relaxation of the strict pay curbs..... **Page 1**

Blair seeks a 'yes' in Wales

■ A triumphant Tony Blair travelled to Wales to urge voters to follow Scotland's example by endorsing an assembly in next week's referendum. With Labour facing a tough fight to secure victory on Thursday, Mr Blair sought to build on the momentum of his success in Scotland..... **Pages 1, 14, 15**

Royal replies

Princes William and Harry said that everyone of the thousands of people who have written to them about their mother's death will receive a reply..... **Pages 1, 6, 7**

Unionists stay in

The Ulster Unionist Party will stay in the peace process despite the IRA's disavowal of the Mitchell principles of non-violence.. **Page 2**

RA attacked

An academician resigned from the Royal Academy of Arts, attacking "the nauseating hypocrisy" of a controversial exhibition..... **Page 3**

Last orders

Friends and drinking partners gathered for last orders in the low life of Jeffrey Bernard..... **Page 4**

They won't

English Heritage has abandoned plans to allow Osborne House, where Queen Victoria brought up nine children, to be used for wedding ceremonies..... **Page 5**

Early lies

Children start telling fibs early, researchers have found. They can lie as soon as they talk..... **Page 10**

Open prison

Oxford prison is among hundreds of historic buildings in Britain opening their doors free of charge to the public..... **Page 13**

Senate battle

Jesse Helms, the veteran senator, took on the White House as he refused once again to grant William Weld a hearing for the Mexican ambassadorship..... **Page 17**

Syria talks

Madeleine Albright turned her attention from Israel's stalled talks with the Palestinians to its frozen negotiations with Syria.... **Page 19**

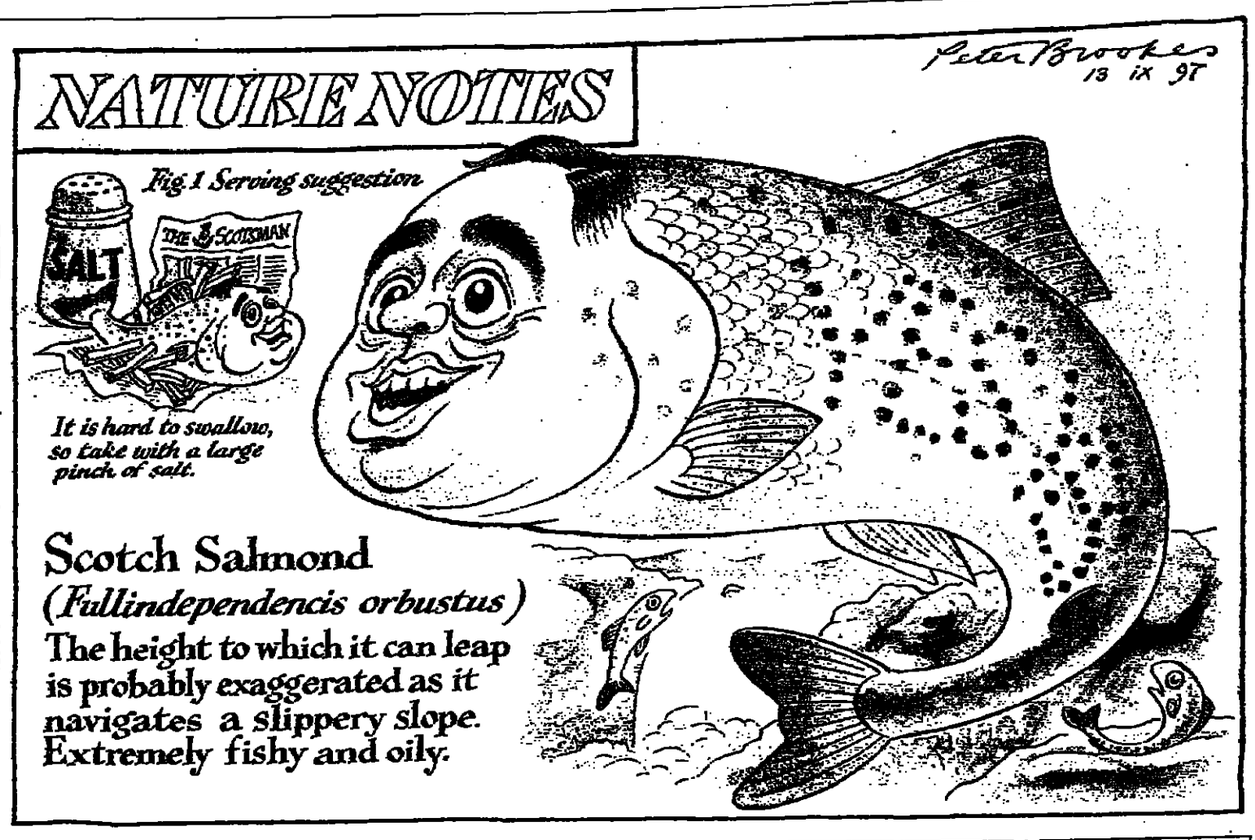
Jiang's acrobatics

President Jiang Zemin turned verbal somersaults as he explained at the start of the 15th Congress of the Communist Party that China remained Marxist..... **Page 20**

Footballer keeps his feet on the ground

■ The image of English football as the home of players pushing back national boundaries so fast that a European league will soon be upon us, was dealt an embarrassing blow when one of its biggest names confirmed that he will have to miss a crucial match next week because he is scared of flying..... **Page 1**

NATURE NOTES



SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Rich kids: The countdown of the top 100 young millionaires..... **Page 15**
Fashion: ..... **Pages 49-73**
History man: ..... **Page 8**

Blur: There is life after Britpop ..... **Page 6**
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WEEKEND

What you fancy: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the benefits of drink .... **Page 1**
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Activites ..... **Page 21**

Vision

Lakeland drama: A new BBC-1 serial
Full seven-day guide
TV adverts ..... **Page 2**
Quiz question: ..... **Page 2**

OPINION

While England slept: It might have been possible for the country to treat devolution as an exclusively Scottish issue. That time has passed. The will of the people is indeed the supreme law. Parliament's role, though, has rarely been more important..... **Page 23**
Diplomatic incident: The Foreign Office has decided to put on display not only its architectural treasures, but its mandarins..... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Devolution: new Crystal Palace; charity work..... **Page 23**

COLUMNS

Magnus Linklater: The turnout had dropped below 40 per cent, someone said. A teller had turned in a ballot box with less than a handful of forms. The Second Question was definitely lost..... **Page 22**
Simon Jenkins: Mr Saatchi says Mr Hirst is a good dead-sheep artist. He has beatified objects and their finders or creators by the act of his patronage..... **Page 22**

OBITUARIES

Bus Mosbacher, America's Cup helmsman; **Serge Peretti,** dancer..... **Page 25**

BUSINESS

Prudential: The UK chief executive has been ousted in a radical shake-up..... **Page 27**
BBC: Bob Phillis has resigned as deputy director-general and chief executive of BBC Worldwide to become chief executive of the Guardian Media Group..... **Page 27**
Shell is purchasing the outstanding 50 per cent of the Montell polypropylene venture..... **Page 27**
Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 6.6 to 4,848.2. Sterling rose to 100.1 from 99.7, rising 2.83 cents to $1.6083 and .18 pfennigs to DM2.8467.... **Page 30**

SPORT

Tennis: Greg Rusedski beat Lucas Arnold in the quarter-finals of the Samsung Open at Bournemouth to move into the world top ten..... **Page 52**
Football: Arsène Wenger, of Arsenal, called for a co-ordinated international programme to prevent Premiership interruptions .... **Page 52**
Cricket: The progress of Kent and Glamorgan, the championship contenders, was held up..... **Pages 46, 47**
Golf: Tony Johnstone, of Zimbabwe, claimed the lead after two rounds of the Lancôme Trophy..... **Page 45**

CAR 97

Record attempt: The battle to hit the ultimate land speed..... **Page 1**
Driving tests: Motorway driving, night driving, or driving in the rain? **Page 2**
Jaguar: The V8 XJ is tested for the road..... **Page 3**
Three wheels: A 130-mph Mercedes..... **Page 5**
China road: The Peking to Paris rally..... **Page 8**

1015

It's Catching: Pop's peppy newcomers..... **Page 6**
Win a CD player ... **Page 3**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,584

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .....

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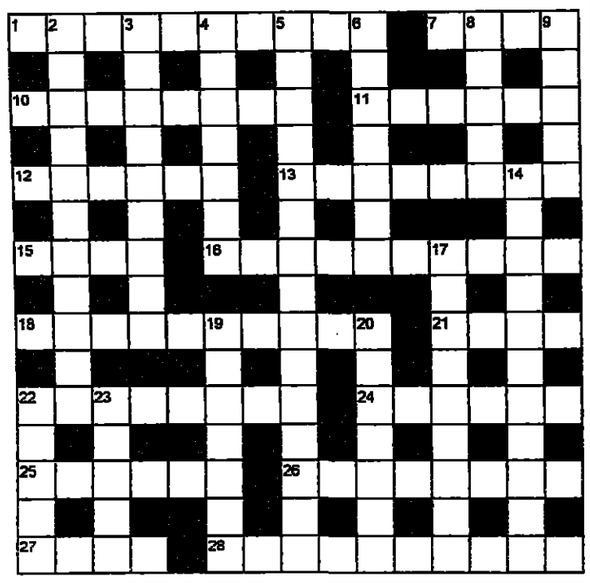

ACROSS

1 Rackstraw, for one, at home in castle (10).
7 Game attended by men only (4).
10 Quickly circulated, like dirty linen? (8).
11 Blue for young cricketer holding a degree (6).
12 Speaker getting ready in ancient Greece (6).
13 Money said by Dad to be for sweet (8).
15 Single-storeyed building in Slough (4).
16 Herbal drink cures heart trouble (10).
18 Banker's advice, say, to take second opinion (5-5).
21 Draws, say, these piggies for a child (4).
22 Shellfish producing nasty collapse (8).
24 Devices with moving jaws piled up potatoes (6).
25 Wine vaults (6).
26 Ultimate net value can be adjusted (8).
27 With pair of kings, is opening? That's a gamble (4).
28 Inseparable from backward boy inhabiting popular Greek island (10).

DOWN

2 Dark clothes (11).
3 Liberal views voiced, revealing North-South differences (9).
4 Ridiculing racist I disconcerted (7).
5 Bigger corporation providing the soldier's banquet? (6-3,6).
6 Ornament hindered embrace at first (7).
8 Loose woman getting gin out of Frenchman (5).
9 Deposit, say, raised for costume (3-2).
14 Root vegetable native has to sow (6,5).
17 Concentrate on gold, being a miner (9).
19 People of enormous influence – *Rhodes for one* (7).
20 Punters getting thrills, securing firsts in Epsom races (7).
22 Mountain that is climbed by German (5).
23 Order form (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,578

Solution to Puzzle No 20,583

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *D M Leathley, Wakefield, West Yorkshire; R T Brown, St Ives, Cambridgeshire; B Lever, Hale, Cheshire; P Despard, Rushall, nr Diss, Norfolk; I Shuman, Wimborne, Dorset.*

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 6.22 am — Sun sets: 7.25 pm
Moon sets 2.02 am — Moon rises 5.25 pm

Full moon September 16

London 7.25 pm to 6.34 am
Bristol 7.29 pm to 6.44 am
Edinburgh 7.36 pm to 6.42 am
Manchester 7.30 pm to 6.41 am
Penzance 7.43 pm to 6.56 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.24 am — Sun sets 7.19 pm
Moon sets 3.15 am — Moon rises 6.04 pm

Full moon September 16

London 7.18 pm to 6.35 am
Bristol 7.21 pm to 6.45 am
Edinburgh 7.28 pm to 6.44 am
Manchester 7.27 pm to 6.42 am
Penzance 7.38 pm to 6.58 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11.00	5.9	23.37	6.2
Aberdeen	11.17	3.7	23.35	3.9
Avonmouth	04.15	10.6	16.57	11.3
Belfast	06.27	3.1	20.52	3.2
Cardiff	04.01	9.9	16.43	10.6
Devonport	03.39	4.6	15.17	4.8
Dover	08.35	5.7	21.06	5.9
Firth of Forth	09.27	5.6	21.21	5.7
Falmouth	02.10	4.4	14.48	4.5
Glasgow	09.55	3.0	22.43	3.2
Harwich	09.02	3.5	21.48	3.6
Holyhead	08.37	4.7	20.30	5.1
Hull (Albert Dock)	03.38	7.3	16.25	7.5
Leith	03.12	7.0	15.52	7.8
Liverpool	03.39	9.4	16.25	9.6
Lerwick			10.23	4.8
Lowestoft	06.47	2.9	21.17	3.4
Newhaven	06.48	5.5	19.38	5.3
Portsmouth	09.00	4.1	22.00	4.5
St Helier (Jersey)	00.23	5.5	16.07	5.9
Swansea	03.06	9.6	15.55	9.9
Tees	03.52	3.1	16.16	3.5
Walton	01.57	4.5	14.20	4.8
Weymouth	04.15	1.4	16.46	1.6
Wolverhampton	09.10	4.1	21.31	4.3
Shoreham	08.40	5.2	21.15	5.5
Southampton	08.18	4.0	20.46	4.2
Salcombe	03.36	7.0	16.12	7.0
Tees	09.54	4.5	10.39	4.6
Walton-N	09.05	3.6	21.48	3.8

All times BST. Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp Manston, Kent 21C (70F); lowest day max Drumalee, South Lanarkshire, Lough Fea, Co Tyrone 11C (52F); highest rainfall Summerage, Powys, 0.82in; highest sunshine Folkestone, Kent 9.2hr

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 42.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

FORECAST

☐ **General:** north and northwest Scotland will have frequent showers, some heavy, with up to gale-force winds. The east and south of Scotland, and northern England will see longer sunny spells with a few showers. Showers in Northern Ireland, Wales and the Midlands will clear during the afternoon. The south will stay dry with some sunshine.

☐ **London, S E, S W, Cent S England, Channel Iss, S Wales:** sunny periods, but cool in brisk westerly wind. Max 14-17C (57-63F).

☐ **E Anglia, E & W Midlands, E England:** showers after a sunny start, but ending dry and bright. Fresh westerly wind. Max 13-16C (55-61F).

☐ **N Wales, Cent N, N E England:** showers slowly clearing, dry and bright by late afternoon. Strong northwest wind. Max 12-15C (54-59F).

☐ **N W England, Lake Dist, IoM, N Ireland:** heavy bursts of rain, drier and brighter by afternoon. Strong northwest wind. Max 12-14C (54-57F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, S W Scotland, Glasgow:** sunshine and showers, dry later. Strong northwest wind. Max 10-13C (50-55F).

☐ **Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, N E, N W Scotland, Argyll:** heavy and prolonged showers slowly clearing. Strong to gale-force northwest wind. Max 10-12C (50-54F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** showers on and off all day. Gale-force northwest wind. Max 9-11C (48-52F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** showers and sunny spells, a fine evening. Wind west, fresh at times. Max 15C (59F)

☐ **Outlook:** most of England and Wales will stay dry but Scotland and Northern Ireland will remain windy with rain at times.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	6.8	0.07	16	61	s	Lerwick	7.6	0.04	12	54	sh
Anglesey	7.1	0.04	15	59	s	Leuchars	9.9	0.01	16	61	s
Aspatria	x					Littlehmptn	8.0	0.10	20	68	sh
Aviemore	6.7	0.00	12	54	sh	London	5.7	0.12	18	64	sh
Belfast	6.0	0.26	12	54	sh	Lowestoft	7.9	0.21	20	68	f
Birmingham	5.5	0.01	17	63	sh	Manchester	4.2	0.13	15	59	sh
Bognor R	5.6	0.17	20	68	sh	Margate	7.9	0.05	21	70	sh
Bournem'th	6.4	0.06	19	66	sh	Minehead	5.8	0.03	16	61	b
Bristol	6.0	0.28	17	63	s	Morecambe	6.0	0.49	15	59	f
Buxton	4.6	0.31	12	54	s	Newcastle	5.4	0.29	14	57	sh
Cardiff	5.5	0.51	16	61	sh	Newquay	3.0	0.14	15	59	c
Clacton	7.9	0.14	17	63	sh	Norwich	x				
Cleethorpes	5.3	0.18	17	63	sh	Oxford	4.0	0.08	17	63	sh
Colwyn Bay	6.6	0.11	15	59	s	Penzance	x	0.09	17	63	s
Cromer	5.8	0.06	18	64	sh	Poole	5.4	0.06	21	70	sh
Dunbar	5.7	0.14	15	59	sh	Prestatyn	x				
Eastbourne	5.1	0.01	19	66	s	Ross-o-wye	5.7	0.07	17	63	s
Edinburgh	5.6	0.10	14	57	sh	Salcombe	7.5	0.06	17	63	s
Eskdalemuir	5.0	0.29	12	54	h	Saunton Snd	4.3	0.25	16	61	s
Exmouth	5.7	0.06	17	63	s	Scarboro'	x				
Falmouth	4.2	0.10	17	63	s	Shrewsbury	x				
Fishguard	7.1	0.06	13	55	s	Skegness	x				
Folkestone	9.2	0.03	19	66	b	Southend	5.8	0.37	20	68	sh
Glasgow	x					Southport	x				
Guernsey	2.2	0.12	21	70	sh	Southsea	4.0	0.03	19	66	f
Hastings	5.6	0.06	19	66	sh	Stornoway	1.9	0.24	11	52	sh
Hayling I.	5.5	0.08	19	66	sh	Swanage	6.0	0.12	18	64	sh
Herne Bay	6.5	0.07	20	68	sh	Teignmouth	6.7	0.02	17	63	b
Hove	x	0.07	19	66	sh	Tenby	7.6	0.12	15	59	s
Hunstanton	x		17	63	sh	Tiree	4.2	0.22	12	54	sh
Isle-of-man	7.0	0.28	14	57	sh	Torquay	8.0	0.08	18	64	s
Isle-of-wight	5.9	0.12	18	64	sh	Tynemouth		0.16	15	59	b
Jersey	1.6	0.09	18	64	sh	West-s-mare	3.1	0.29	17	63	b
Kinloss	x					Weymouth	5.2	0.06	18	64	b
Leeds	5.5	0.05	15	59	sh						

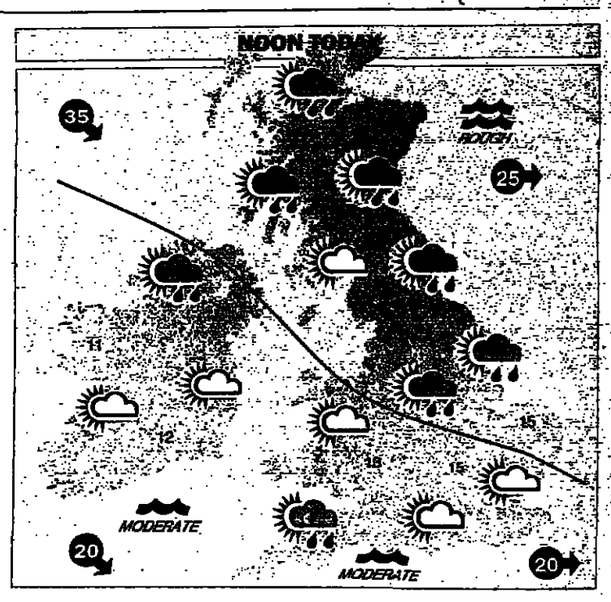
ABROAD

Ajaccio	27	81	s	Corfu	28	82	s	Majorca	30	86	s
Akrotiri	27	81	s	C'phagn	17	63	s	Malaga	30	86	s
Alex'dria	29	84	s	Dublin	14	57	c	Malta	28	82	s
Algiers	34	93	s	Dubrovnik	26	79	s	Melb'rne	11	52	c
Amst'dm	17	63	f	Faro	25	77	s	Mexico C	x		
Athens	27	81	s	Florence	29	84	s	Miami	29	82	f
B Aires	13	55	s	Frankfurt	20	68	s	Milan	27	81	f
Bahrain	34	93	s	Funchal	24	75	c	Montreal	20	68	s
Bangkok	34	93	s	Geneva	21	70	s	Moscow	11	52	c
Barbados	29	84	c	Gibraltar	25	77	s	Munich	19	66	s
Barcelona	26	79	f	Helsinki	18	64	f	N Delhi	x		
Beirut	28	82	f	Hong K	30	86	f	N York	26	79	s
Belgrade	20	68	s	Innsbrck	21	70	s	Nairobi	26	79	f
Berlin	16	61	c	Istanbul	21	70	f	Naples	29	84	s
Bermuda	27	81	s	Jeddah	34	93	s	Nice	26	79	s
Biarritz	24	75	f	Jo'burg	12	54	f	Oslo	15	59	f
Bord'x	29	84	s	L Angeles	26	79	s	Paris	23	73	s
Brussels	19	66	s	L Palmas	26	79	s	Peking	20	68	s
Budapest	20	68	s	Le Tquet	19	66	s	Perth	17	63	f
Cairo	33	91	s	Lisbon	28	82	s	Prague	15	59	s
Cape Tn	26	79	s	Locarno	x			Reykjavik	5	41	r
Ch'church	11	52	x	Luxembg	20	68	s	Rhodes	30	86	s
Chicago	22	72	s	Luxor	38	100	s	Rio de J	21	70	f
Cologne	19	66	s	Madrid	32	90	s	Riyadh	41	106	s
Romo	27	81	s								
S Fr'sco	21	70	s								
S Paulo	x										
Salzburg	20	68	s								
Santiago	12	54	c								
Seoul	27	81	s								
Sing'por	32	90	f								
Stk'holm	15	59	s								
Strasb'rg	21	70	s								
Sydney	16	61	c								
Tangier	23	73	f								
Tel Aviv	30	86	s								
Tenerife	27	81	s								
Tokyo	29	84	s								
Toronto	21	70	f								
Tunis	30	86	f								
Valencia	29	84	s								
Vanc'ver	16	61	f								
Venice	23	73	s								
Vienna	19	66	s								
Warsaw	16	61	c								
Wash'ton	x										
Wel'ngton	13	55	x								
Zurich	19	66	s								

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. x = not available

Changes to the chart from noon: low E will run northeastwards and deepen, low G will drift northwards with little change; high J will extend eastwards with little change

NOON TODAY



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THE TIMES CITY DIARY
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13 1997

Pru's UK head ousted in radical shake-up

By Caroline Merrell

PRUDENTIAL'S UK chief executive has been ousted as part of a radical shake-up of Britain's biggest insurer ordered by Sir Peter Davis.

Sir Peter, group chief executive, will assume direct responsibility for the UK retail operation. Jim Sutcliffe, chief executive of Prudential UK, is to leave at the end of this month. He has been with the insurer for 21 years and chief executive for the past two.

Sir Peter said that Mr Sutcliffe had turned down the offer of another job within the group, and had wanted to lead the restructuring himself.

The Prudential refused to comment on Mr Sutcliffe's pay-off. Last year his total salary including bonus was £437,000. He is on an 18-month contract. A spokesman said the pay-off would depend on how quickly Mr Sutcliffe, 41, was able to find another position. He can also cash in share options worth a total of £1.2 million.

Mr Sutcliffe was one of two remaining executive board directors who had worked under Mick Newmarch, the previous group chief executive. Mr Newmarch left the company at the beginning of 1995 after a clash with regulators. Now only Keith Bedell-Pearce, director of international development, remains.

Since the arrival of Sir Peter two years ago, the insurer has been struggling to deal with compensating thousands of people who were encouraged to give up their company schemes in favour of taking out personal pension plans. Prudential has identified around 60,000 cases.

Sir Peter said: "The other challenge that we face is to restore customer confidence following the pensions mis-selling issue." He admitted that the Prudential was unlikely to meet the first deadline set by the Securities and Investments Board to sort out its pensions mis-selling cases. The company could end up being fined by the regulators.

The chief city watchdog gave the Prudential until the end of this month to compensate 90 per cent of high-priority cases, and it has until March to complete the mis-selling review.

The review of operations is expected to take around six months. The company insisted that it was not a cost-cutting exercise, and therefore was unlikely to result in redundancies.

The company will be split into four parts. One division will be aimed at selling through independent financial advisers, via the recently acquired Scottish Amicable; another will focus on direct sales through the Prudential's salesforce. A separate division will deal with telephone sales, including the company's banking services, while the final division will focus on corporate pensions.

Sir Peter said that this final division will be responsible for the development of pensions to fit in with government plans to overhaul state pension provision. Others involved in the review include John Elbourne, managing director of Prudential Assurance, and Roy Nicolson, managing director of Scottish Amicable.

Sir Peter Davis, left, with Jim Sutcliffe, centre, and Michael Harris, head of banking

Shell pays $2bn for control of Montell

By Carl Mortished

SHELL the Anglo-Dutch oil group, is investing $2 billion (£1.2 billion) in its troubled petrochemicals division by purchasing the outstanding 50 per cent of the Montell polypropylene joint venture. At the same time Shell is centralising the management of its worldwide chemical operations under a new company, Shell Chemicals, with the aim of achieving leadership positions in its chemical businesses.

Shell is taking complete control of Montell with the payment of $2 billion to Montedison, the Italian joint venture partner, for its half of the business, which is the market leader in polypropylene in Europe and North America. Shell has also signed a joint venture agreement with BASF over their interests in polyethylene. The oil company is centralising management of its chemical operations, giving worldwide strategic control to a small executive team led by Evert Henkes.

Disappointing earnings from Shell's chemical businesses marred the oil group's half-year results, with chemical earnings outside the US down 38 per cent in the second quarter. A drive to refocus chemicals and improve performance led to the sale of the fine chemicals businesses to Inspec but a quarter of Shell's chemicals businesses are thought to be underperforming.

Gordon Gray, oil analyst at Salomon Brothers, said Shell, among the oil majors, has the highest proportion of its assets in petrochemicals. "In our view they would be well served by gearing up the balance sheet. The question is whether the $2 billion of capital is put to good use, and in chemicals Montell is probably the area that has the best potential of all."

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WEEKEND MONEY

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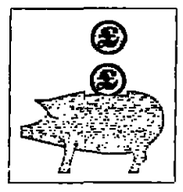

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4848.2	(-6.6)
Yield	3.41	
FTSE All share	2292.01	(-2.71)
Nikkei	17965.80	(-316.43)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7642.63	(-18.35)*
S&P Composite	911.11	(-1.48)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5½%*	(5½%)
Long Bond	96[illegible]*	(96[illegible])
Yield	6.62%*	(6.69%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7[illegible]%	(7[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	115[illegible]	(115[illegible])

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6085*	(1.6005)
London:		
$	1.6086	(1.5981)
DM	2.8471	(2.8451)
FFr	9.5752	(9.5611)
SFr	2.3562	(2.3463)
Yen	194.34	(190.20)
£ Index	100.1	(99.7)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7725*	(1.7790)
FFr	5.9955*	(5.9635)
SFr	1.4660*	(1.4735)
Yen	120.95*	(119.56)
$ Index	105.5	(105.7)

Tokyo close Yen 120.48

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Nov) $18.45 ($18.40)

GOLD

London close $324.15 ($322.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Auditor sued over Resort

By Jon Ashworth

SIR PETER DAVIS, chief executive of Prudential, is one of dozens of investors collectively suing Coopers & Lybrand (C&L) over the notorious 1992 rights issue by Resort Hotels, the failed hotels group.

Sir Raymond Lygo, former chief executive of British Aerospace, Sir Peter Menzies and the Earl of Portsmouth, are among those taking the action, which alleges negligence on the part of C&L, Resort's auditor, together with former Resort directors. Those named in the writ include Robert Feld, Resort's founder, who was jailed for eight years in April for fraud and forgery.

Details of the action are outlined in a writ lodged in the High Court in London. A similar writ was lodged in July. Leon Kaye Collin & Gitten, a London law firm specialising in class actions, is acting for 250 individuals and institutions.

The plaintiffs allege "untrue and misleading" statements in a prospectus accompanying the Resort rights issue, which raised £20 million, two years before the company collapsed.

Feld, who was described by the trial judge as a man of "appalling dishonesty", was said, at his trial, to have overstated a profits forecast in the rights issue prospectus by £1 million, while massaging other figures. It was alleged at the trial that C&L had failed to seek independent confirmation of documents provided by him.

C&L had no comment yesterday.

Banks return to property

By Carl Mortished

THE banks are poised to return to the commercial property market with a net £6 billion addition to their real estate loan books over the next two years. A survey by DTZ Debenham Thorpe, the surveyor, finds that three quarters of lending institutions intend to increase their property loan books to cash in on rising rents and increased confidence.

The move would raise outstanding loans to the property sector to more than £36 billion and reverse the trend of steady disinvestment by banks since lending to property developers peaked at £40 billion in 1991.

According to DTZ, none of the lenders surveyed intended to reduce real estate exposure, but the renewed interest in commercial property has meant a fall in interest margins for banks, lengthening loan commitment periods and more choice for property developers. Meanwhile, UK fund managers are maintaining their revived interest in the sector with the potential for net investment in property of up to £3 billion over the next two years.

The banks' interest follows a rapid retreat after losses from bad property loans in 1992 and 1993. Peter Evans, of DTZ, said: "There is an argument that the natural result of over-exuberance in one cycle is to be slow off the mark in the next." He does not expect 1980s-style boom and bust, but says the market will stay cyclical if investors overestimate demand.

Tempus, page 30

Morland pays £4.8m for Ruddles

RUDDLES County and Ruddles Best Bitter, two real ale drinkers' favourites, will be in British hands again under a deal brewed up by Morland, best known for its distinctive Old Speckled Hen beer (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Morland, the brewer based in the Thames Valley, is paying Grolsch, the Dutch company, £4.8 million in cash for the two brands and for the Ruddles brewery. Grolsch is best-known for its premium lager sold in a swing-top bottle.

Payment of £3.1 million will be deferred until 1999. Morland, which believes the deal will be earnings enhancing in the first full year, will assume trade liabilities of £1.4 million and pay up to £2.2 million for stock.

Mike Watts, chief executive, said: "The acquisition continues our strategy of developing the brewing business by concentrating on niche products."

The two Ruddles ales will be sold through Morland's own 440 pubs and also marketed in North America and Europe, where Old Speckled Hen is already selling well.

Phillis quits BBC for Guardian Media

By Raymond Snoddy
Media Editor

BOB PHILLIS has resigned as deputy director-general of the BBC and chief executive of BBC Worldwide, its commercial arm, to become chief executive of the Guardian Media Group, parent of *The Guardian* and *Observer* newspapers.

Mr Phillis said yesterday he was leaving the BBC "because he had been offered a very good and exciting job". He told BBC governors of his decision on Thursday. The number two at the BBC was responsible for implementing the Corporation's new commercial strategy — a strategy that has led to the privatisation of BBC transmitters and to a number of potentially lucrative joint ventures.

However, there were tensions at the top of the BBC with John Birt, the Director-General. When a radical restructuring was planned last year Mr Phillis was informed only 48 hours before it was publicly announced and he was not involved in the process. Relations between the two were polite rather than close.

It is clear that Mr Phillis, who began his working life as an apprentice printer before going to Nottingham University, would have liked to become the next Director-General of the BBC. That became less likely when Sir Christopher Bland became chairman of the BBC and Mr Birt's contract was extended by four years.

Mr Phillis, who will leave the BBC in November after five years, must have found the prospect of being in charge of an expanding media group preferable to being an uncomfortable number two at the BBC. The BBC said yesterday a new chief executive of BBC Worldwide would be appointed after Mr Phillis's departure, but there were "no plans at present to appoint a deputy director-general".

Mr Phillis, 51, is a former chief executive of Independent Television News. He was approached about the GMG job by Bob Gavron, GMG's chairman.

Phillis: tensions at top of BBC

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Ramco bid for JKX in jeopardy

The Ukrainian Government has effectively scuppered the takeover of JKX, the struggling oil and gas company, by Ramco.

The 46½p-a-share bid ran into trouble when Ukragazprom, the Ukraine's state-owned oil group, and a Swiss partner with interests in Georgia, snapped up a 10.5 per cent stake in JKX at 52p per share.

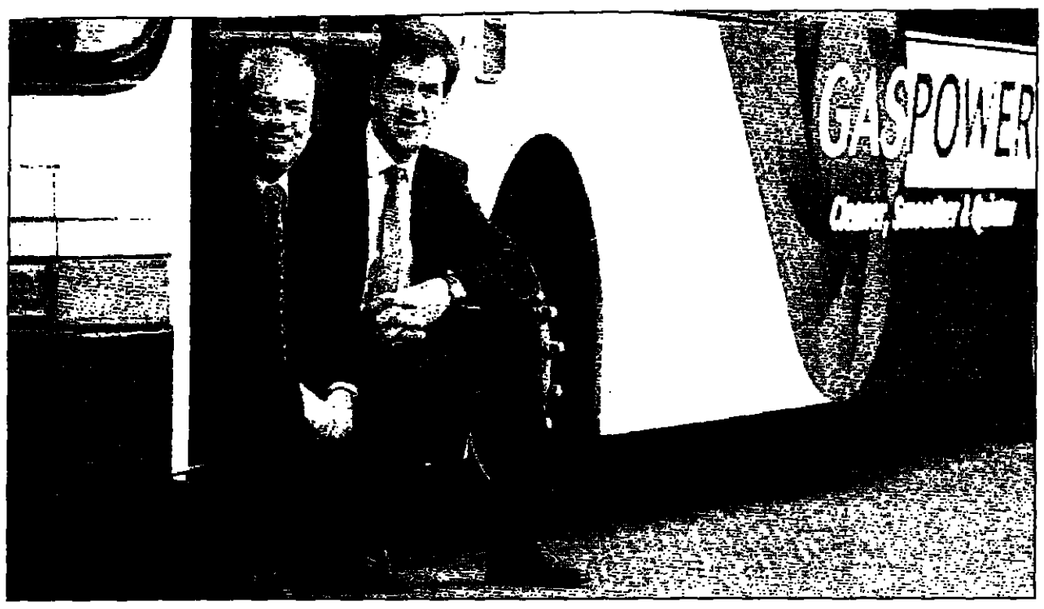
Ramco has received further acceptances in respect of just 1.5 per cent by the second closing date, lifting its interest to 48.5 per cent. It is understood that two institutional investors, Mercury and Morgan Grenfell, are considering declining Ramco's offer and either holding their shares in JKX or selling them to Ukragazrpom.

Invesco plan recommended

Directors of Saracen Value, the smaller companies investment trust that has drawn interest from 15 investment houses, have recommended to shareholders proposals by Invesco Asset Management. They offer a choice of converting holdings into Invesco's English and International investment trust, an existing smaller companies unit trust, or cash. Saracen said the plans are supported by 59.7 per cent of issued share capital. HSBC Asset Management, a bidder for the fund, is releasing shareholders from obligations to support its plans.

Convertors profits hit

A slowdown in sales of franchises has hit profits at Cash Convertors, the Australian-based second-hand shops chain with nearly 100 branches in the UK and a London Stock Exchange listing. Pre-tax profit was down to A$6.48 million (£2.9 million) in the year to June 30, from A$6.51 million a year earlier. The company has cut its final dividend to 2.2 cents, from 2.6 cents, giving a full-year pay out of 3.5 cents, down from 3.9 cents.



Colin Child, pictured right, finance director of National Express, has sold most of his shares in the company, raising £851,000. He sold 164,572 shares at 517p on Thursday, leaving him with 4,666 shares. Philip White, left, chief executive, sold 35,000 shares at 517p, netting £181,000. He still has 37,106 shares. The sales came after the group reported pre-tax profits of £23.5 million (£20.4 million) in the six months to June 30. The shares rose 3p to 521p yesterday.

LucasVarity profits fall but margins advance

By Adam Jones

PROFIT margin increases resulting from last year's transatlantic merger held LucasVarity shares steady yesterday in the face of continued pessimism about the car parts market.

Victor Rice, chief executive, said automotive sales in Europe and the US would remain flat in the second half. Analysts were pleased, however, by a deal with General Motors to supply anti-lock braking systems for light trucks and off-road leisure vehicles.

The group, formed by the merger of Lucas, of the UK, and Varity, of the US, reported a dip in profits, blaming the strong pound, for the first six months of 1997. Profits were £167 million, against £169 million for the same period last year, despite being bolstered by £19 million gains from business and asset sales. The company said earnings would have risen 5.3 per cent without adverse currency changes.

In the second quarter, operating margins were up across the board on the levels achieved in the first quarter. In the diesel engines division, they rose from 6.9 per cent to 8.5 per cent. Mr Rice was confident these improvements would be maintained in the second half. He said the long-term target was for double-digit margins in all divisions, with aerospace on 15 per cent or more.

He said Ford's decision to turn its components division into a separate company would not affect LucasVarity, even though some analysts see the move as being a pressure on future margins.

Mr Rice claimed Ford and General Motors were saddled with high wage costs that made them less competitive.

Changes in the taxation of dividends in the last Budget would not change the company's controversial policy of paying a reduced dividend in combination with a programme of share buybacks. An interim of 2.25p will be paid on January 5.

Eight more businesses will be sold by the year end as the merger restructuring continues. The group is no closer to choosing a new name.

Siemens rejects GEC's advances

By Adam Jones

GEC has been rebuffed by Siemens in its bid for the German engineering group's defence electronics business, having been tipped as the favoured suitor.

The rejection has led to speculation that talks over the sale of GEC's 60 per cent stake in GPT, the telecoms equipment joint venture between the two companies, have stalled. One analyst said that Siemens is balking at the price asked by George Simpson, the GEC managing director, who is being made a peer.

Siemens yesterday confirmed it had formed a shortlist of two for its defence business, which made a £60 million profit last year and is known as Siemens Plessey in the UK.

The shortlist consists of a joint bid from British Aerospace and Daimler-Benz Aerospace, and an offer from Thomson-CSF of France.

GEC, in a statement, said: "We would have liked to have acquired this business, but we were not prepared to offer a price which we could not justify to our shareholders."

A Siemens spokesman maintained that the sale and the discussions over GPT's future were always separate issues. The two favoured bidders are now embarking on due diligence. Siemens aims to have the deal, which could raise DM1 billion (£350 million), agreed by the end of this month, although a wait for regulatory clearance is likely.

The BAe/Daimler-Benz bid is thought to involve splitting the German and UK assets between the two companies. There is a view that GEC may do a deal with Thomson if the French group is successful.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

SkyePharma seeks £7m through placing

SKYEPHARMA yesterday announced a placing of 17.3 million ordinary shares to raise £7.4 million needed to keep the pharmaceutical group going. Directors subscribed for £2.75 million of the shares, which were placed at 45p, a 34 per cent discount to the previous day's close of 68½p. Ian Gowrie-Smith, chairman, formerly head of Medeva, invested £300,000. Last year the shares peaked at 95p.

The cash call coincided with the pharmaceutical company's half-year figures, which revealed a pre-tax loss of £10.2 million (£4.9 million loss) and losses per share of 2.9p (2.6p loss last time). The group gave warning that more cash could soon be required. "If the group is to pursue its current business plan it will require further funding before it achieves significant positive cashflows," shareholders were told.

The reasons for the fundraising included deferral of filing dates for several products, costs associated with the acquisition of a manufacturing facility and rights to compounds purchased. SkyePharma added that the positive cashflow expected for 1998 at the time of the flotation would not now appear until 1999.

Nikkei index falls back

TOKYO'S Nikkei share index fell below 18,000 for the first time since the spring as traders sold both the yen and shares in response to the 2.9 per cent fall in Japan's gross domestic product in the second quarter of 1997. In New York, the yen fell to Y121.60 against the dollar before recovering slightly. The yen also dipped against the mark, ensuring that Japan's rebounding trade surplus again becomes an issue at the Group of Seven meeting in Hong Kong next week. Over the week, the Nikkei 225 index fell 8.6 per cent. Sun fails to rise, page 31

Darby lifts profits

SHARES in Darby Group yesterday rose by 15½p, to 135p, a new high, after the manufacturer and distributor of insulation and glass products reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £1.2 million, from £880,000, for the six months to the June 30. Earnings per share were 3.18p (2.37p). The interim dividend is being lifted to 1.2p a share, from 1p. Michael Darby, chairman, said that trading in the current year is continuing to develop well, and that he expects the pace of growth to increase in 1998.

Lusty buys Wunderbar

JOHN LUSTY GROUP, the distributor of food products, is buying Wunderbar, a supplier of confectionery and savoury snacks, for a maximum consideration of £2.25 million. The purchase will be funded through a £2.3 million rights issue of one new share for every four held at 8p a share, against yesterday's price of 10¼p. Wunderbar, which owns the Boulevard brand, declared operating profits of £1.03 million on turnover of £7 million for the year ending April 30.

Brown 'staying at C&W'

By Christine Buckley

CABLE & WIRELESS insisted yesterday that Dick Brown, its chief executive, was committed to the company, amid reports that he has been headhunted for the top slot at AT&T, the US telecoms giant.

A spokeswoman said that Mr Brown, an American who has spent 28 years in the US telecoms industry, had "achieved a lot at C&W and has much more planned". Mr Brown, who earns £650,000 with a bonus entitlement of 100 per cent of his salary, has led C&W for just over a year.

The vacancy for a chief executive and chairman at AT&T arose several weeks ago when John Walter, who had been lined up for the job, left the company after only six months. Working week, page 29

SIB targets futures trader

By Gavin Lumsden

THE Securities and Investments Board is attempting to jail a North London futures trader for allegedly breaking a permanent injunction against him for the second time.

Michael Ivor Braff was barred from conducting unauthorised investment business three years ago and served a two-month prison sentence for contempt of court in Pentonville jail in 1995 after resuming business with his company, Global Currency. After a tip-off from an irate investor earlier this year the SIB discovered that Mr Braff had set up business again as Porchester Securities.

The SIB has obtained an injunction freezing Mr Braff's assets and will commence committal proceedings against him in two weeks' time.

Porchester, which has addresses in Gibraltar and Spain, claimed it could grow investors' money by 7 per cent a month. One investor's £10,000 investment lost £3,230 last November.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.32	2.14
Austria Sch	21.13	19.47
Belgium Fr	62.24	57.28
Canada $	2.354	2.166
Cyprus Cyp£	0.889	0.818
Denmark Kr	11.48	10.59
Finland Mkk	9.12	8.37
France Fr	10.09	9.31
Germany Dm	3.02	2.78
Greece Dr	476	437
Hong Kong $	13.23	12.03
Iceland	128	106
Ireland Pt	1.12	1.03
Israel Shk	5.93	5.28
Italy Lira	2970	2733
Japan Yen	209.73	192.20
Malta	0.695	0.608
Netherlds Gld	3.413	3.116
New Zealand $	2.68	2.44
Norway Kr	12.38	11.44
Portugal Esc	303.03	281.00
S Africa Rd	8.23	7.27
Spain Pta	252.79	234.00
Sweden Kr	13.17	12.07
Switzerland Fr	2.52	2.30
Turkey Lira	281578	261700
USA $	1.707	1.564

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
ANOTHER BIG BANG?
The most dramatic change to the London stockmarket since Big Bang comes next month. Will the City get it right this time?
Business Focus — tomorrow
THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Bank of Scotland's no-no on D-Day

By Anne Ashworth
Personal Finance Editor

THE Bank of Scotland's devolution day computer crisis finally ended at tea time yesterday. The episode left embarrassed staff at the bank, established by an Act of the first Scots Parliament in 1695, making profuse apologies to customers and offering compensation.

Both English and Scottish customers were victims of a problem with the bank's systems that led to the details of cash and cheque cards being erased entirely. This meant that cards were gobbled up by cash machines on both sides of the border. People using their cards in shops were also unable to complete their purchases.

As the first results in the devolution vote were being announced on Thursday night, staff at the bank's telephone banking division, Banking Direct, were placating irate customers.

Yesterday, a spokeswoman for Bank of Scotland said that fewer than 2,000 account holders were directly affected by the computer problems. The computer appears to have chosen its victims at random, with no Sassenach bias.

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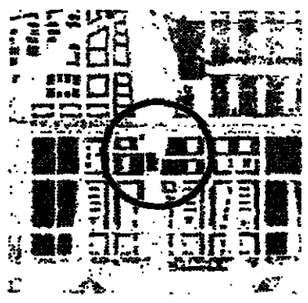

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: GRAHAM WALLACE

Tuning in to what the customer wants

CWC's chief wants his communications business to be interactive in more ways than one, says Raymond Snoddy

Graham Wallace says the campaign aims to convey the theme that CWC focuses on the customer, talks to the customer and listens to the customer

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

THE chief executive of Cable & Wireless Communications will spend a lot of his time on Monday concentrating intently on the media. Graham Wallace will be reading all the national newspapers, watching lots of commercial television and checking out posters on the way to work.

He will be assessing just what he is getting for his money — the £50 million being spent on an advertising campaign, which breaks on Monday and continues until March, to launch the Cable & Wireless brand as the biggest name in UK cable. The impact next week, Wallace hopes, will be unavoidable, because not only is Cable & Wireless launching four separate TV advertisements, but the entire colour advertising capacity of the national press on Monday has been booked.

"There was no doubt we had to make a big impact and there was no doubt it had to be different and unusual," said Wallace. He spent his week finalising details of the campaign while talking to journalists about what he aims to achieve at CWC. He has also spent a large amount of time preparing to explain his plans to the City, which has been sceptical about the performance of the cable industry.

As he talked on Wednesday about the future of cable and the difficulties of integrating four companies (Mercury Communications, Nynex, Bell Cablemedia and Videotron) to form CWC with a turnover of £2 billion, Wallace was on call for a main board meeting at Cable & Wireless's headquarters in London's Holborn near by. Some new projects that he wanted to fund were on the agenda. But mostly this week his mind was on the campaign that could be launched only once the corporate integration was complete.

"You couldn't just drop those names that customers were familiar with without replacing them with something better. The brand we are using with customers is Cable & Wireless," says Wallace who took on the job of creating CWC from its constituent parts after, most recently, running Granada's television rental division and then its restaurants and services. Last year, before the approach for the CWC job, Wallace was also involved in integrating Forte's hotel and catering interests with Granada's. Integration is obviously a speciality. In 1990 as a Granada representative on the board of British Satellite Broadcasting Wallace was closely involved in the merger with Sky.

The Granada experience of maintaining high levels of service to customers on a continuous basis is now informing his new career in cable, an industry which has been criticised in the past for poor service and marketing.

"I think it's fair to say without giving any confidences away that there is a lot to do. But that's great. It's no good coming to a company where everything runs brilliantly. Where the hell do you go? I don't think even its staunchest allies would claim that in marketing and service the cable industry has been that brilliant," said Wallace, who is noted for his openness and enthusiasm.

He studied engineering at Imperial College London, but was not enamoured with engineering rates of pay and quickly headed towards finance.

The 48-year-old Wallace is now firmly applying his service industry experience to cable. "I consider being focused on the customer as the most important thing we do. It's second nature to me," he said. It is that approach that has informed the advertising campaign — slogan: "What can we do for you?" — and an accompanying survey that is claimed as the largest ever into the way the British communicate at home, at work and at leisure.

The survey will go to at least 1.5 million homes, or six million people, in the first wave, but the entire country is going to be asked to respond to the TV, poster and print campaigns.

Quite apart from the cable industry, Wallace believes that it is revolutionary for telecommunications companies to consult the public in such a detailed way.

The survey consists of 30 multiple choice questions, ranging from whether respondents would like to be a "home contestant" on quiz programmes such as *Fifteen To One* or *Family Fortunes* to whether they would break up an affair with someone on the telephone.

Slightly more seriously, consumers will be asked what they want communications technology to do for them in future. "The campaign is about building the brand but also getting over the theme that we focus on the customer, that we talk to the customer and we listen to the customer," said Wallace, who will soon set out with senior colleagues on a second tour of his empire, which ranges from London and Leeds to Manchester and Southampton, to visit all 12,000 CWC staff.

Wallace insists that notice will be taken of the survey's results. "We do have choices on what products we develop, particularly in the digital era," he said. The future of channels that come out badly in the survey could be reviewed. He is conscious of the scale of the challenge that he faces and is wary of setting public targets with time limits attached for his cable network. "One of the issues people have not properly taken account of is that we are still building the network. We are just over half-built and we will be fully built out by the year 2001," Wallace added.

CWC has six million homes in the UK under franchises and its cable network at the moment reaches about three million homes. Of those, about 600,000, or 20 per cent, subscribe — two percentage points below the industry average. The long-term target is to lift the percentage of subscribers to more than 35 per cent. But Wallace concedes that this is unlikely to happen before the network is complete.

At the moment 90 per cent of CWC's revenues come from telecommunications, but provision of television channels will remain an integral part of the package. Indeed, the CWC chief executive argues, what makes cable unique is that it can offer consumers a complete communications package — telecommunications, TV channels and the Internet and other interactive services.

Even among cable companies Graham Wallace believes that CWC is in a unique position. With Cable & Wireless, a global telecoms player as a parent, Wallace believes that the cable subsidiary can count on continuing investment and long-term support. Telewest, the second-largest cable company in the UK, has recently cut back its level of investment.

Underlying the scale of CWC's investment is the importance that Cable & Wireless attaches to developing "the local loop", the final link into the home, to connect to its national and international telephone networks. "At the end of the day we are different. That's the reality. We are an integrated communications company," said Wallace, who likes to watch Tottenham Hotspur when he can get away from the communications revolution.

Football, and how it can be provided to viewers, is also one of his professional preoccupations. This week the papers carried news that CWC is in talks with Leeds United about running a TV channel dedicated to the club in its Leeds cable franchise area. Wallace does not deny the reports. If such a thing goes, it will begin as a modest affair devoted to interviews with players and possibly clips from old matches. Live pay-per-view football is still some way off, although the merchandising possibilities are already attracting attention.

CWC has, however, been in talks on a pay-per-view movie service with British Sky Broadcasting, the satellite venture in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake.

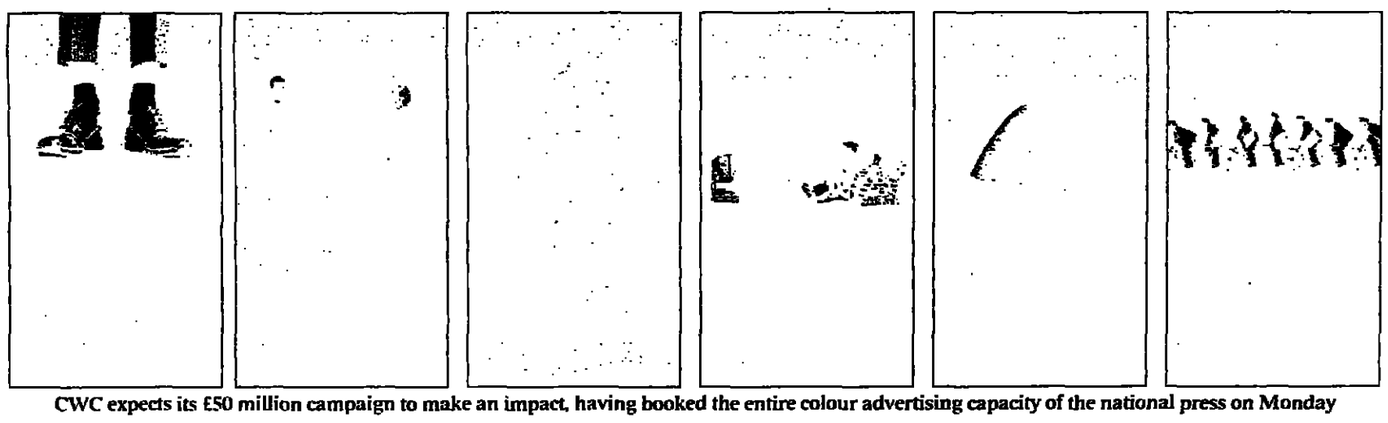
"We are talking to BSkyB and we are also talking to other suppliers. A deal is not done yet. We are in detailed discussions," said Wallace, who is also preparing to launch up to 200 channels of digital cable. Technically CWC could do it now. The company has already found out it can feed all the channels from a single playout centre to all its franchises. The reality is that CWC will be happy to match BSkyB, which says it is launching its digital satellite service next spring.

In the meantime CWC is joining other cable companies such as NTL, which was known as CableTel until recently, in putting together relatively inexpensive packages that include a telephone line and a small number of basic television channels, including Channel 5.

CWC has recently launched a package at £11.99 a month, and so far Wallace believes that the response has been "very positive". The aim is to offer viewers greater flexibility in what they choose to buy. There is growing evidence that consumers do not like being forced to buy large packages of channels, including channels they do not want to watch.

The new stripped-down packages, complete with a cable telephone, will increase the competitive pressure on BT.

And after CWC's initial £50 million advertising campaign, Wallace is prepared to spend as much again to reinforce the message to consumers.



CWC expects its £50 million campaign to make an impact, having booked the entire colour advertising capacity of the national press on Monday

Scots away after the vote

WHILE the majority of Scots were celebrating their country's vote for freedom, several prominent members of the business community were strangely absent, leading to comparisons with a Wild West ghost town. Where were all the captains of industry who so proudly opposed a Scottish parliament and the so-called tartan tax?

Lord Weir — who appeared on the television news to defend the union — was not in his Glasgow office and his secretary said that he was "uncontactable". Sir Bruce Pattullo, Governor of the Bank of Scotland, who put the case so eloquently against taxation in the bank's annual report, was "out of the office", and at Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, the chairman, Sir Alistair Grant, and Brian Stewart, the chief executive, were away.

Indeed Mr Stewart's office said that he was "out of the country". "Is he coming back at all?" I asked. "I'm not sure," came the reply. "I hope so."

Absent friends: Sir Alistair Grant, left, S&N chairman, and Brian Stewart, chief executive, both opposed devolution

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

☐ *NEWS reaches me of the alarming efficiency of the share-dealing service being run for the Woolwich by Barclays Stockbrokers. The inquiry line was moving rather tardily yesterday and a reader tells me what happened when he called to sell his shares. The voicemail said that the selling price was 313p, but it was so long before a human being came on the line that the price had dropped to 312p. But give Barclays its due . . . the bank is refunding the difference.*

Crisp Smith

IF ENERGIS, the National Grid's telecoms business, is really worth £1 billion, this is about twice what AT&T, the huge US multinational, was prepared to pay for it a few years ago. Virtually the entire electricity industry, already awash with cash at the time, wanted to take the money. They were stopped by one man, who said that it was worth more. AT&T walked away, a decision it must be regretting as the Americans still want the business but will now have to pay much more. The man's name was James Smith — he used to run Eastern Electricity and, my, was he pilloried for it at the time.

☐ *KING COAL, otherwise known as RJB Mining, has launched a charity campaign on behalf of the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation, whose workers visit and provide help for sick, disabled and disadvantaged miners. A worthy cause, and staff are being encouraged to apply for baseball hats for £2 each, subsidised by the company. Just how popular the hats, bearing the RJB logo, will prove to be in Leicestershire, and among staff at the Asfordby colliery — closed in spite of strong protests from the union — remains to be seen.*

Blank check

NEWS reaches me from Paris of a flood of orders to Filofax — maker of the Luddite version of the Psion organiser — for blank agenda pages from previous years. These pages are used, I am told, by those who want to rewrite what they were doing in the past — for example to mislead tax collectors or to avoid compromising situations. The Filofax apparently has many famous users, including Princess Caroline of Monaco, the actress Isabelle Adjani, and Woody Allen, the film director, who has 12. I don't know if Stalin had one.

Forest path

THE DIRECTORS' box at Nottingham Forest Football Club will be an interesting place today. The guest of honour is Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor and MP for the city's Rushcliffe constituency, who has hardly enamoured locals by becoming chairman of UniChem, arch rival of the city's most famous company, Boots the Chemist.

Over the last few weeks, cuddly Ken has been weighing up an offer to become a director of Forest. I understand he declined the kind suggestion of Nigel Wray, the financier who chairs the club, to take over that role. But there is still a gap on the board that needs to be filled before Forest publishes its flotation prospectus on Tuesday.

"I don't think we can match UniChem's £120,000-a-year," a Forest insider tells me. "But Ken can restore some of his Nottingham street cred."

Pizza pickle

ON THE subject of Nigel Wray, Domino's Pizza, where he has a 20 per cent stake, has hired a motivational expert to help the group's irritating delivery boys to run over your feet on their mopeds. Robert E Farrell has offered his theories on "Service, Consistency, Attitude and Teamwork" (Scat, geddit?) to the likes of Nike and Safeway in the UK, and has written a book called *Give 'em the pickle*. I have a picture in my possession of Ferrell giving 'em the pickle but out of kindness I will not be publishing it.

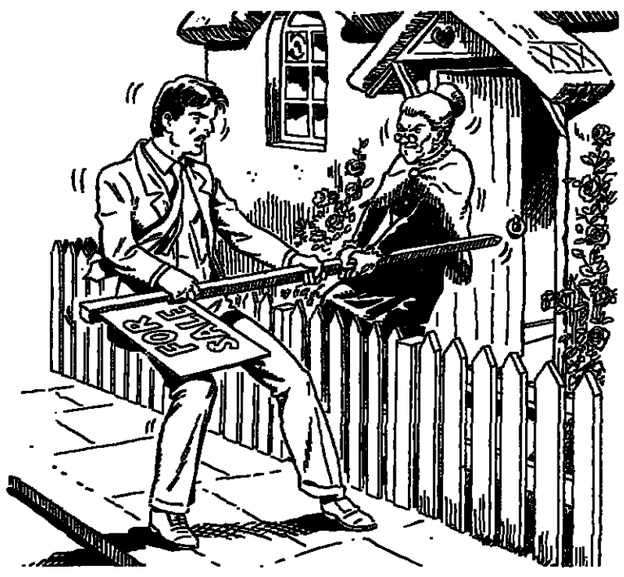
Footie note

FOOTIE fans will be overcome with excitement next week. There is Arsenal in Greece on Channel 5 on Tuesday, Chelsea on their travels on the same channel on Thursday and double jeopardy on Wednesday. Carlton Select, the cable television channel owned by Carlton Communications, has bought the rights to show exclusively games in the Champions League that are not already on ITV.

Two Premiership teams, Manchester United and Newcastle United, have qualified. ITV is wisely showing the Geordies' head-to-head tussle with mighty Barcelona. But for dedicated Man United fans and anoraks, Carlton Select will show the Red Devils taking on FC Kosice, whoever they are.

JASON NISSÉ

"Bloody marvellous. It's the end of the summer holidays and sterling is plummeting."



WHEN PLANNING FOR FUTURE CARE - KEEP YOUR HOME OUT OF THE EQUATION

For many people, selling their home is the only way to pay for long term nursing care. There is a way round it. The Personal Financial Planning survey in this week's issue of Investors Chronicle explains how your local authority calculates the assets you are allowed before you start having to pay for nursing care yourself.

We also look closely at your earlier years of retirement and the latest fashion for income drawdown as a means of taking your pension. We examine carefully this option and decide whether you are better off buying your annuity on the day you retire.

Permanent Health Insurance is an option for many still at work. Friendly societies now offer PHI and other financial services. We look closely at their products compared with the market.

Selling your with-profits endowment needs care. We examine the benefits of selling and the other options you should look at first.

Parents can never start too soon to plan for school fees. We look at the benefits of starting early, how to make up for lost ground and detail a range of specific investment products.

Investors Chronicle complete with Personal Financial Planning survey is on sale Friday, 12th September. From your newsagent. Price £2.50.

FT FINANCIAL TIMES Finance

INVESTORS CHRONICLE

STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Dalgety sell-off talk offers holders a crumb of comfort

IT LOOKS as if there may be some light at the end of the tunnel for long-suffering shareholders of **Dalgety**.

The struggling pet foods and agribusiness is expected to announce plans to dispose of one or more of its five divisions when it unveils full-year figures on Monday. Brokers say the group is determined to retain its core Winalot and Felix petfoods business but may offload its ingredients, milling, pig breeding or US distribution side.

Ingredients is seen as the easiest division to offload. **Associated British Foods**, 1½p better at 516p, Ireland's Kerry Group and **Tomkins**, 1½p firmer at 323p, are possible bidders.

The City has been buzzing in recent months about the possibility of a £1 billion break-up bid for the group after two profit warnings and a cut dividend.

The results, expected to see profits plunge from £102 million to £61 million, are likely to be accompanied by publication of a strategic review. The shares rose 6½p to 274p.

Meanwhile, a rally inspired by the softer than expected US retail sales numbers quickly ran out of steam as Wall Street turned easier after an early mark-up. The FTSE 100 index *saw a 23-point lead wiped out* but managed to close above its worst of the day. It ended 6.6 points down at 4,848.2, stretching the deficit on the week to 146 points.

The London market has now suffered five days of consecutive falls on the back of a helter-skelter performance by the Dow Jones industrial average, which staged a 100-point turnround in early trading yesterday. Worries about forthcoming third-quarter corporate earnings and unsettled Asian markets have fuelled fears that a major correction may be on the way.

After a 132-point fall in the Dow on Wednesday, the writing was on the wall for investors in London and they never recovered. Each time New York posted an opening fall domestic issues reacted accordingly.

Brokers say the index could drop below the 4,800 support level early next week.

The transformation of the City's attitude towards **BTR** this week takes some believing. The promise to refocus the group with £3 billion worth of *disposals and to return money* to shareholders has struck a chord with brokers. Despite a further downturn in profitability, institutional investors are happy to back the group. It was again the heaviest stock among the top 100 companies with 24 million shares changing hands. But the price slipped 2½p to 231½p.

There was also heavy turnover in shares of **BT** with 15.31 million traded as the price slipped 1½p to 389p. SBC Warburg, the broker, is said to be recommending it to clients.

British Airways was the best performer among blue *chip shares with the price* climbing 14½p to 678½p after finally settling its long-running pay dispute with cabin staff. The European Commission has also offered hope by saying it is not against the proposed alliance between BA and American Airlines.

British Airways climbed 14½p after settling its pay dispute

NatWest Securities, the broker, was impresed with half-year figures from **United News & Media** this week and has begun urging clients to "add" to their holdings. It says profits comfortably exceeded expectations and that earnings growth expectations were stronger than the likes of rival Carlton Communications. **Carlton** closed 10p up at 507½p; United News added a similar amount to 758p.

The failure of **GEC** to get on the shortlist of buyers for Siemens electronic defence arm came as something of a *blow and left the shares 14½p* down at 380½p. Now there is talk in the Square Mile that GEC has set its sights on **Racal Electronics** defence arm. Racal responded with a rise of 8p to 228½p.

A profits warning earlier in the week from Corning, the US glassmaker, hit its joint venture partner **BICC** with the price falling 13p to a new low of 145½p.

Corning is the world's biggest supplier of optical fibre equipment and says the rapid expansion in capacity combined with a slump in demand would affect profits this year and next. BICC is a major supplier of cable.

Tesco was a flat market, losing 3½p to 434p after a counter bid for the French retailer Casino by rival Promodes effectively ruled out the supermarket chain making an offer of its own. Tesco is due to unveil interim figures next week with NatWest Securities looking for pre-tax profits of £349 million against £321 million for the corresponding period. Worried by the outcome of the Tesco results, Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, has begun urging clients to switch into **Asda**, ¼p firmer at 145p, and **Safeway**, 10p off at 385p.

Next fell 23p to 731½p as the bears moved in ahead of half-year figures on Wednesday. Profits should be up but Credit Lyonnais Laing warns that the trading statement accompanying the figures is unlikely to impress the City.

Inchcape, reporting next week, fell 8½p to 261p. The *market expects headline profits* to show a further decline although the figures should provide further evidence that the group's recovery is well under way.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Those subdued US retail sales gave a boost to bond markets. London was inspired by gains of $1 among US Treasury bonds. But brokers reported *sellers at the higher levels and* the best gains were not held. London still managed to outperform German bunds.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt put on £⅜ to close at £115 7/16 as a total of 90,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, the longer end of the market attracted the strongest support which resulted in a flattening of the yield curve. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose £7/16 to £111⅜, while at the short end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a tick better at £102 13/16.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Blue chips pulled back from their lows as trading curbs were lifted. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 18.35 points to *7,642.63 at midday.*

Compass Group rallied 10p to 592p after shrugging off a *number of bearish stories this week. These suggested that* Accor was to sell its 10 per cent stake or that the group was about to issue a profits warning. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, has spoken to the company and rates the shares a buy.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Biocompatibles	592½	-555p	US deal scuppered
BTR	231½p	+13½p	Disposals planned
Trafficmaster	390p	+12p	Merger talks
Argos	648½p	+30p	Institutional presentations
British Aerospace	£15.24	-12½p	Disappointing figures
Jackson Group	54p	+15p	Bid approach
Pittard Group	84½p	-9p	Profits warning
Norwich Union	333p	-19p	Brokers' sell recommendation
BICC	145½p	-16p	Partner issues profits warning

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	7642.63 (-18.35)
S&P Composite	911.11 (-1.48)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	17965.80 (-316.43)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	14470.46 (+162.1n)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	864.73 (+8.71)

Sydney:

AO	2640.0 (-25.8)

Frankfurt:

DAX	3854.81 (+117.74)

Singapore:

Straits	1955.95 (+8.27)

Brussels:

General	13224.71 (-6.33)

Paris:

CAC-40	2834.07 (-9.53)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	1131.30 (+7.40)

London:

FT 30	3133.6 (-4.4)
FTSE 100	4848.2 (-6.6)
FTSE 250	4630.8 (-2.4)
FTSE 350	2342.5 (-2.8)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2537.42 (-8.26)
FTSE All-Share	2292.01 (-2.71)
FTSE Non Financials	2314.21 (-5.51)
FTSE Fixed Interest	126.36 (-0.47)
FTSE Govt Secs	97.70 (+0.29)
Bargains	37409
SEAQ Volume	618.3m
US$	1.6083 (+0.0203)
German Mark	2.8467 (+0.0018)
Exchange Index	100.1 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4542
£:SDR	1.1671
RPI 158.5 Aug (3.5%) Jan 1987=100	
RPIX 157.1 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987=100	

RECENT ISSUES

Antofgsta Cv Uts	397½	...	
Bristol & West Prf	111¼	+	1¼
Cammell Laird	137½	...	
EMI B	115	...	
Fleming Asian	81	...	
Flmg Asian Wrts	18½	...	
GR Holdings	52½	...	
Galen Holdings	266½	+	1
Helicon Pubslg	92½	...	
I S Solutions	135½	...	
Kingfisher Leisure	176½	...	
Reabourne Merlin	108	...	
SBS Group	110	-	½
Severn Trent B	37½	...	
Stentor Warrants	46	...	
Style Holdings	84½	...	
Thorn B	20½	...	
Viglen Technology	62	-	1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Langdons Foods n/p (1)	½	...
Misys Uts Cnv n/p	132½	- 25
SEET n/p (30)	1½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Garton Eng	166½p (+20p)
Specty Shops	138p (+12½p)
Reliance Sec	145p (+10p)
Dorling Kind	285p (+14p)
Carrs Milling	324p (+14p)
Real Time	285p (+12p)
Haynes Pub	252½p (+10p)
Molins	380p (+15p)
Gearhouse Gp	393½p (+10p)

FALLS:

Durban	132p (-13½p)
BICC	145½p (-13p)
Broken Hill	731p (-31p)
Cortecs	199p (-7½p)
Enterprise	664p (-23½p)
Rio Tinto	913½p (-30p)
Next	731½p (-23p)
Safeway	385p (-10p)
Cohen (A)	390p (-10p)
TI	586p (-14½p)
Legal & Gen	446p (-11p)
IMI	379p (-9p)
Irish Perm	570p (-10p)
GUS	642½p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 41

TEMPUS

Plan from the Pru

WHEN the chief executive starts to appear on television commercials, you should fear the worst. and for Jim Sutcliffe, former head of Prudential UK, the worst was finding the *boss's feet under his desk.* Sir Peter Davis has big plans for Prudential: nothing and nobody is going to get in his way. This is no bad thing providing that Sir Peter gets it right. At first glance, yesterday's reorganisation of the business looked like yet another reshuffle, straight from a management consultant's manual. However, the interest lies not in the creation of four business units but in the recognition by the Pru that it needs to focus more on customers.

The Pru and its rivals are preparing for a very bitter battle over pensions and investment business. For insurers, the worst aspect of the misselling scandal was not the cost, nor even the loss of goodwill but the sudden recognition that they had not a clue how to sell pensions to the public. With demand from the public set to surge as the government foists provision on the private sector, insurers need to get it right very quickly.

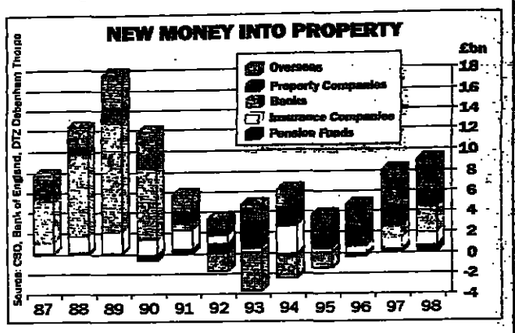
Evidence for the half year suggests the Pru is getting it wrong in pensions. New business fell while the market grew 20 per cent. Half of the Pru is still dominated by door-to-door selling, a labour intensive operation that may not justify the expense of regulatory-imposed training of the salesforce. Yet no pensions provider can hope to profit by selling to the wealthy and ignoring the mass market as competition and regulation will cut margins across the board and doubtless, force out the weak. The Pru, at least, has size on its side, and is a better bet than many.

Property

OUR great banks are developing a new version of Santayana's aphorism that those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it. Instead, those who remain obsessed with the past will miss out on the future. No chairman of a clearing bank will have forgotten the property busts of the early 1990s, having spent five years tidying up the wreckage of companies such as Canary Wharf, Imry and Speyhawk. Loan officers have therefore shunned property; even assuming they could spot an investment opportunity, they face a board of directors whose collective fingers still bear the scars.

While our banks and fund managers sniffed at real estate, those abroad hunted for bargains. Over the last three years the biggest investors have been foreign, in particular German, property funds and banks. These will have done spectacularly well, snapping up City office blocks on double-digit yields *which have now* fallen to 7 per cent and below. Still, our brave bankers reckon that all is not lost and are now ready to lend again, just as interest rate margins are narrowing and the property developers are getting the upper hand.

Another bust is probably not imminent — strong tenant demand and few speculative developments should lead to scarcity and soaring rents. Thanks to our frightened bankers who never lend in a downturn we are headed for another spin on the property rollercoaster.



Shell

SHELL has found a home for $2 billion, although a great many shareholders probably reckon that they could find a better use for the money than petrochemical plants. Even after the cheque payable to Montedison is cashed, this *remains a hugely overcapitalised* oil company, at a time when returns from its upstream oil exploration business are rising sharply.

Still, it is unfair to reject the polypropylene investment. Full control of Montell offers Shell the chance to raise the return on fixed assets, which analysts reckon was as low as 7 per cent last year. Polypropylene is a growing market, and after the deal Shell will be the leading producer worldwide. Even more interesting is yesterday's further evidence of the gradual centralisation of command at Shell. In future, chemicals strategy will be directed from a small team at the top, leaving little room for Shell's local companies to embark on wild goose chases.

Yesterday's peevish reaction to the Montell investment in part stems from disappointment about the dividend. There is no obvious solution to Shell's problem with share buybacks, which are penalised by the Dutch *tax system.* A higher payout ratio is, however, likely and investors would be unwise to abandon Shell when it is showing signs of change.

BICC

IT IS a measure of the nervousness which surrounds BICC that a profits warning from Corning, the US glassmaker, about its fibre optics business can send the British cable company's shares into a tailspin. Though BICC has a series of joint ventures with Corning, it has nothing in the US and the group was at pains to say that Cornings' problems have nothing to do with BICC.

What worries investors is that there never seems to be good news coming out of BICC. Germany, Italy, Australia, wherever, BICC has troubles. Even Balfour Beatty cannot seem to make hay in a sunny construction market. BICC's shares have fallen to less than a third of where they were a couple of years ago. Though BICC swears that the fibre optic market is not being hurt by increasing competiton and there is growth of 20 per cent per annum to be had, the City is bludgeoned with bad news and fears the worst.

But *this is unfair.* When Alan Jones took over as chief executive he inherited a group in a mess, but whose problems had not been spotted by the market. These days BICC is a company wearing its heart on its sleeve and whose virtues are obscured by bad feeling. Yesterday's 9 per cent drop in the share price should be seen as a buying opportunity.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Sep	1080-1065	Dec	1192-1140
Dec	1113-1112	Mar	1207-1202
Mar	1136-1135	May	1220-1212
May	1151-1150	Jul	1235-1225
Jul	1167-1164		
Sep	1182-1177		Volume: 7245

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Sep	1565-1560	May	1569-1563
Nov	unq	Jul	1575 SLR
Jan	1583 BID	Sep	1575 SLR
Mar	1569-1565		Volume: 1659

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		May	326.4-25.7
Spot: n/a		Aug	335.0-24.2
Oct	317.8-17.2	Oct	322.5-18.2
Dec	322.0-21.5	Dec	323.5-17.2
Mar	325.0-25.2		Volume: 4460

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average livestock prices at representative markets on September 11

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	81.18	115.29	101.24
[illegible]	-4.04	+1.99	-0.02
Eng/Wales	81.16	115.52	101.22
[illegible]	-4.04	+1.92	+0.44
[illegible]	-3.0	-2.0	-1.9.0
Scotland	unq	114.05	101.34
[illegible]		+2.54	-2.70
[illegible]		+6.0	-31.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.15	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Oct)	18.35	-0.20
Brent 15 day (Nov)	18.45	-0.20
W Texas Intermediate (Oct)	19.40	-0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Nov)	19.55	-0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	217 (n/c)	220 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	162 (-1)	164 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	90 (n/c)	93 (+1)
Naphtha	185 (n/c)	189 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Oct	163.25-63.50	Jan	169.85-69.25
Nov	165.25-65.50	Feb	169.75-70.25
Dec	167.25-67.50		Vol: 7610

BRENT (6.00pm)

Oct	18.31-18.32	Jan	18.51-18.52
Nov	18.41-18.42	Feb	18.53-18.56
Dec	18.47-18.49		Vol. 25079

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Sep	87.00	Sep	80.60
Nov	86.25	Nov	82.85
Jan	90.25	Jan	84.85
Mar	92.25	Mar	86.85
May	94.25	May	88.10
Volume: 339		Volume: 30	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	62.0
Mar		95.0
Apr	117.1	115.0
		Volume: 76

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Sep 60.50-61.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Sep 97	1300	1290	1290
Oct 97	1420	1420	1425
Nov 97	unq	—	1455
Jan 98	—	—	1495
Vol: 124 lots		Open interest: 2851	

Index 1291.6

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) — Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2065.0-2067.0	2110.5-2111.5	1702750
Lead ($/tonne)	631.50-632.50	650.50-660.00	149900
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1614.0-1620.0	1428.0-1429.0	423450
Tin ($/tonne)	5475.0-5495.0	5520.0-5530.0	13570
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1616.0-1617.0	1625.0-1625.5	2214200
Nickel ($/tonne)	6430.0-6435.0	6525.0-6530.0	784608

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

FTSE INDEX (*4847)

[illegible]

*Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest 161935	Sep 97	115-24	116-01	115-23	115-30	1410
	Dec 97	115-05	115-24	115-03	115-14	90930
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest 286508	Dec 97	101.70	101.90	101.58	101.76	144204
	Mar 98				100.95	0
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest 103324	Dec 97	109.51	109.04	109.36	109.45	38313
	Mar 98				109.35	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97	127.27	127.47	127.26	127.43	2277
	Mar 98	126.33	126.53	126.33	126.51	158
Three Mth Sterling	Sep 97	92.73	92.73	92.71	92.72	9094
	Dec 97	92.64	92.67	92.64	92.66	14403
Previous open interest 677298	Mar 98	92.64	92.65	92.62	92.65	11196
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest 1656611	Sep 97	96.72	96.72	96.71	96.72	154370
	Dec 97	96.53	96.53	96.48	96.50	42711
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest 409172	Sep 97	93.20	93.21	93.19	93.20	19534
	Dec 97	93.55	93.57	93.54	93.56	17146
Three Mth Euroyen	Mar 98				99.38	0
	Jun 98				99.29	0
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest 178729	Sep 97	98.55	98.57	98.54	98.56	18444
	Dec 97	98.20	98.22	98.16	98.17	4457
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest 39635	Sep 97	95.66	95.66	95.65	95.66	636
	Dec 97	95.60	95.60	95.59	95.60	1638
FTSE 100 Previous open interest 80368	Sep 97	4955.0	4980.0	4808.0	4831.0	15878
	Dec 97	4916.0	4954.0	4874.5	4890.5	5725

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7 Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans O/night high: 7¼ Low 6¼ Week fixed: 7

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7⅛; 3 mth 7⅛. Sell: 2 mth 6⅞; 3 mth: 6⅞

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	
Sterling Money Rates:	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞
Interbank:	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞
Overnight: open 7, close 6¼.					
Local Authority Deps:	7¼	n/a	7¼	7¼	7¼
Sterling CDs:	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞
Dollar CDs:	5.57	n/a	5.61	5.74	5.96
Building Society CDs:	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞	7-6⅞

TREASURY BILLS: Applied: £1,222m allotted: £200m; Bids: £98.285% received: 94%; Last week: £98.28% received: 67%; Avge rate: £6.8776% last wk £6.8806%; Next week: £200m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5⅛-4⅞	5-4⅞	5-4⅞
Deutschemark:	3-2⅞	3-2⅞	3-2⅞	3⅛-2⅞	3-2⅞
French Franc:	3-2	3-2	3-2¼	3⅛-2¼	3-2
Swiss Franc:	1-½	1-½	1⅛-½	1-½	1-½
Yen:	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	⅛-⅛	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $323.30-323.60 Close: $323.90-324.40 High: $324.30-324.90 Low: $322.40-322.90 AM: $323.25 PM: $323.35

Krugerrand: $323.50-325.50 (£201.75-203.75)

Platinum: $428.00 (£267.35) **Silver:** $4.77 (£2.975) **Palladium:** $193.50 (£120.85)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Sept 12	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2053-3.2303	3.2053-3.2081	1¼-1pr	3¼-3pr
Brussels	58.727-58.990	58.727-58.828	20-15pr	50-49pr
Copenhagen	10.833-10.887	10.833-10.843	¼-1pr	1-1pr
Dublin	1.0603-1.0677	1.0626-1.0661	11-5pr	30-23pr
Frankfurt	2.8457-2.8578	2.8457-2.8484	¼-1pr	2¼-2¼pr
Lisbon	288.97-290.78	288.97-290.63	¼-1pr	1¼-1¼pr
Madrid	239.02-241.48	239.02-240.23	41-31pr	126-108pr
Milan	2780.2-2792.7	2780.2-2785.1	13pr-3ds	36-14pr
Montreal	2.2249-2.2423	2.2401-2.2423	0.64-0.64pr	1.40-1.31pr
New York	1.6000-1.6091	1.6081-1.6091	0.20-0.18pr	0.61-0.57pr
Oslo	11.710-11.768	11.710-11.725	¼-1pr	1-¼pr
Paris	9.5714-9.6180	9.5714-9.5790	3¼-3pr	9¼-8pr
Stockholm	12.309-12.411	12.309-12.329	¼-1pr	1-¼pr
Tokyo	192.83-194.75	194.21-194.47	1¼-1pr	3¼-3¼pr
Vienna	20.026-20.116	20.026-20.046	¼-1pr	2-1¼pr
Zurich	2.3547-2.3642	2.3547-2.3577	1¼-1pr	3¼-3¼pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3852-1.3861
Austria	12.56-12.57
Belgium (Com)	36.86-36.91
Canada	1.3413-1.3418
Denmark	6.8005-6.8025
France	6.0102-6.0125
Germany	1.7866-1.7871
Hong Kong	7.7455-7.7465
Ireland	1.5013-1.5053
Italy	1745.0-1746.0
Japan	121.56-121.61
Malaysia	2.4650-2.9700
Netherlands	2.0130-2.0135
Norway	7.3522-7.3597
Portugal	181.50-181.60
Singapore	1.5150-1.5160
Spain	150.87-150.90
Sweden	7.7250-7.7300
Switzerland	1.4760-1.4770

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6028-1.6055
Australia dollar	2.2150-2.2205
Bahrain dinar	0.5955-0.6095
Brazil real*	1.7503-1.7544
China yuan	13.098-13.398
Cyprus pound	0.8340-0.8530
Finland markka	8.4825-8.6235
Greece drachma	443.5-454.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.3951-12.4052
India rupee	57.77-59.07
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwaiti dinar KD	0.4785-0.4895
Malaysia ringgit	4.7449-4.7562
New Zealand dollar	2.5202-2.5230
Pakistan rupee	63.15 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7525-5.9875
Singapore dollar	2.4240-2.4282
S Africa rand (com)	7.4150-7.5840
U A E dirham	5.9725-5.9385

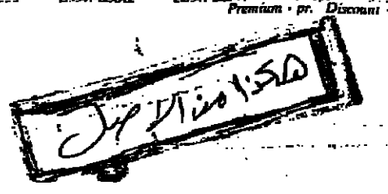
Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

[illegible]

WALL STREET

[illegible]



CATASTROPHE 32
Crunch time for the kitten with no cover

WEEKEND MONEY

PENSION POSER 36
Retired through ill-health, but too young for a pension

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Gavin Lumsden and **Sara McConnell** report on moves to bring mortgages into line with work patterns

Lenders told to offer more flexibility

A series of government announcements this week could radically alter the way we arrange our personal finances. Mortgages could become better suited to the radical changes in employment, allowing us to pay more in the good times and take payment holidays when work is scarce. However, we could also be compelled to take out cover to protect our incomes and our mortgage payments against periods of sickness or disability (see below).

In a keynote speech, Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, threatened lenders with tough new laws if they did not start to sell loans that people need.

In spite of the disappearance of the jobs-for-life culture, many homeowners find that lenders still demand regular, uniform payments. Borrowers simply wishing to suspend payments for a few months as they look for a new job, or cope with a downturn in income caused by the end of a contract, often find themselves in arrears.

Miss Armstrong said: "The great majority of current mortgages are designed on the assumption of continuous full-time employment with fixed monthly payments for 25 years. These assumptions are increasingly out of step with life in the modern world." Miss Armstrong said lenders had to change their attitudes and focus more on flexible mortgages. These allow borrowers to overpay when times are good and reduce, or suspend, payments when finances are tight.

But Miss Armstrong's comments have sparked a furious debate among lenders as to whether this flexible mortgage is suitable for the mass market. Currently only a few lenders, including the Bank of Scotland, the Royal Bank of Scotland, Clydesdale Bank, Sainsbury's Bank, Scottish Widows Bank, Legal & General, Mortgage Trust, Stroud and Swindon building society and the Woolwich, which entered the market this week, offer this type of loan. According to the Bank of Scotland, the market leader in flexible mortgages, borrowers are crying out for new terms from their lenders. The bank will next month offer the Personal Choice mortgage, its successful flexible loan, in place of its standard variable mortgage.

Borrowers with flexible mortgages are able to pay off their loan early, thus reducing their interest payment, with none of the penalties traditionally imposed by lenders. According to Mortgage Trust, borrowers who pay an extra £50 a month on a 8.24 per cent variable 25-year £50,000 loan can pay off the debt nearly seven years early, saving £21,921 in interest payments.

Some lenders have pushed the flexible concept further by allowing borrowers to withdraw some or all of the credit they have built up through regular overpayments by giving them cheque books, or even cash machine cards with Mortgage Trust's Current Account Mortgage.

The emergence of current account mortgages, the combination of two traditionally separate products, is revolutionary. By regular overpayment homeowners can reduce their loans and, therefore, their interest payments. If they then choose to withdraw the money they have overpaid, the interest savings they will have made will be greater than the interest they would have earned in a conventional savings account. Savings accounts earn around 5 per cent, while mortgage rates are between 7 and 8.5 per cent. The money withdrawn on the variable rate will also be up to 5 per cent cheaper than taking a personal loan from a bank or building society.

Willie Donald, chief manager of Bank of Scotland Centrebank, said: "Borrowers can build up large lump sums which they can use to pay school or university fees, make home improvements or make a contribution to a pension scheme."

The larger lenders are hovering uncertainly around the margins of flexible lending. The Nationwide, like many, claims to offer flexibiliy to its borrowers on an individual basis. It has a subsidiary, UCB Homeloans, specialising in flexbile mortgages, and is considering selling the new loans through its branches. However, Brian Davis, its chief executive, believes it may have to charge a fee for the service. Others argue that flexible mortgages are already too expensive and will remain a niche product regardless of the Government's wishes. This is because most will lend only 75 per cent of the value of a property and do not offer the kind of fixed interest and discount deals that attract most borrowers. Mortgage Trust has recognised this and has added a three-year fix at 8.24 per cent to its Early Payment Plan.

Patrick Bunton of London & Country, a mortgage adviser, said: "The ability to get a flexible mortgage with a fixed rate is excellent. However, 8.24 per cent is not competitive, especially as interest rates are expected to start going down next year. You can get 7.29 per cent from National Counties, nearly 1 per cent less. Most borrowers would rather have 3 per cent in their pockets over three years."

For some groups of workers, the savings to be made from flexible loans could be swallowed up in compulsory mortgage protection insurance. Pressure for this cover is coming principally from lenders, although Miss Armstrong did say this week that borrowers in trouble could not expect the State to improve the help it now gives. At present, only one in six of all borrowers voluntarily insures against becoming ill or unemployed and being unable to pay the mortgage. They are seemingly unaware that if they cannot repay their loans they will receive no state help for nine months. If lenders get their way, the average borrower with a £50,000 loan will be paying an extra £27 a month for payment insurance.

Compulsion may, however, drive up the cost for the millions of self-employed and contract workers without job security, as insurers set higher premiums to reflect the extra risk of borrowers in these groups. Currently most borrowers pay a flat rate premium.

At present, only a handful of companies, including General Accident Direct, operate a system of individual risk assessment that takes into account factors such as age, postcode and employment.

Steve Devine of Pinnacle Insurance, a mortgage payment protection specialist, said: "There are good risks and bad risks and compulsory insurance needs individual underwriting."

Any move to force insurers to offer cover to all borrowers on identical terms without being allowed to assess the risk posed by individuals could result in some people being refused cover and potentially a loan. The Association of British Insurers (ABI) said: "Cover may be made compulsory but the problem is to compel insurers to provide it. What happens if someone is at a high risk of redundancy but still qualifies for a mortgage?"

Insurers promised to improve their policies two years ago after the previous government drastically cut the amount of state help for borrowers. But experts say this has not happened. Elaine Kempson of the Policy Studies Institute, who co-authored a critical report on the market in May this year, said this week that insurers had made little progress in developing policies that covered more people and linked in with the state system effectively.

ALAN ADLER

Sickness cover plan for workers

British workers could soon be forced to take out private insurance policies if they are unable to work for long periods because of sickness or disability (John Givens writes).

Proposals put to the Government this week by the Social Security Advisory Committee recommend that long-term sickness insurance should be made compulsory to help to ease the UK's £23 billion-a-year disability benefit bill.

The controversial scheme could see the average 30-year-old non-smoker paying premiums of around £50 a month to make sure they have an income if their working life is cut short or temporarily interrupted by accident, illness or disability.

The Social Security Advisory Committee, whose findings the Government is obliged to consider, believes the existing system of sickness benefit payments is failing to provide fair financial help to those who need it most.

Some large employers operate schemes that offer six months on full salary and a further six months on half salary to those with serious illnesses. But most employees must rely on the State. Under the current rules anyone earning more than £62 a week who is off work with an illness is entitled to claim weekly Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) of £55.70 for up to 28 weeks, with the employer picking up the bill.

After 28 weeks the claimant switches to incapacity benefit, also £55.70 a week, until a full year of illness has elapsed, when the benefit rises to £62.45 a week. For the very long-term disabled, the State pays out varying amounts linked to the Disability Living Allowance of as much as £84.10 a week.

The phasing-out of these benefits would mean that employees would be required to take out permanent health insurance (PHI) policies.

After a deferred period of three to six months the insured will receive a proportion (usually 50-60 per cent) of their normal monthly gross earnings.

According to Allied Dunbar, one of the market leaders in individual PHI, a man aged 30 next birthday wanting annual cover of £12,500 against a salary of £25,000 would have to pay premiums of £51.23 a month for a policy offering a deferred period of one month. For a man aged 50, the monthly premiums rocket to £128.73.

However, some PHI experts expressed concern that the Government might impose fixed-cost policies on the insurers, denying them the right to use normal underwriting procedures to help to calculate premiums tailored to the individual.

Peter Kelly, divisional director of life marketing with Allied Dunbar, says that premium rates are likely to fall if the market is flooded with applications for policies from people toeing the government line.

WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Sun fails to rise in Japan

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Unless you are brave or smart, it is usually better for private investors as well as institutions to ride through general share price setbacks on the stock market. In theory, you earn much higher returns by capturing upswings and missing downturns. In practice, human nature makes one sell too early, missing the last nervy leg of an upswing, and buy back too late, after the market has turned. Upswings are usually bigger and longer than the short, sharp shocks, making a pragmatic case for benign neglect.

There are alarming exceptions. Investors who bought at the 1972 peak of the FTSE All-share index did not see prices return to that level until 1977-78. Much the same was true in Japan, even if the intervening trough was not as deep as in Britain, where shares had lost more than 70 per cent of their peak value by the nadir at new year 1975.

Japan now also offers an up-to-date and even more chilling example of the true bear market. Tokyo missed the October 1987 crash, soon making it the world's most valuable stock market, topping even New York. Its 16-year bull market eventually came to a jarring halt in the final days of 1989, by which point the Nikkei 225 index had multiplied from 3,505 in October 1974 to a skyscraping 38,915. Ten months later, the Nikkei was back to 20,000. By August 1992 it touched 14,309, a drop of 63 per cent.

The market has since been directionless. Good short-term gains can be made, for instance in late 1995 or spring this year, as the index meanders between 15,000 and 20,000. But those who bought during 1989 have still lost half their money. Long-term investors would need to have bought more than ten years ago to be breaking even.

The difference between that sort of disaster and a break to correct over-optimism is an economic imbalance. In 1973 the first Opec oil price crisis converted a normal slowdown into an inflation-ridden slump. The financial bubble inflated uniquely in Japan at the end of the 1980s boom was punctured by interest rates. The Bank of Japan's discount rate more than doubled from 2.5 per cent to 6 per cent in less than a year.

The international recession became an enduring slump in Japan because the crash in property and stock prices ruined the banking system and left a shortage of credit. That slashed investment abroad, helping the yen to double in value against the dollar at one point, hit exports and turned profit to loss.

Years of negligible 0.5 per cent money rates and heavy public pump-priming finally dragged the yen down and the economy up last year, but attempts to rebalance the budget now menace the recovery. A rise in consumption tax on April 1 produced a mini-spree in advance, followed by empty stores since. Output fell 2.9 per cent in the April-to-June quarter, double the growth in January to March, querying the 1.9 per cent annual growth forecast for 1997-98. The Nikkei fell 8.6 per cent this week.

With Japan's home economy flat and Asian "tiger" markets in trouble, only exports to Noth America and Europe are buoyant. Political trouble is already resurfacing as trade surpluses grow month by month. There will doubtless be pressure to raise the discount rate and boost the yen again.

Oddly, this could be good for everyone. Japanese investors have discovered that inflation is by no means the only enemy. The majority are retired people who live off the returns on their savings rather than pensions, much as new generations will have to here. They have no money to spend. Deposit rates are niggardly, ten-year bond yields dipped below 2 per cent at the end of August, believed to be the lowest in any developed country since 1941, shares remain depressed and still yield only 0.75 per cent in dividend.

Doubtless, this is a hiccup and Japanese shares will eventually make up lost ground. But that could have been said two years ago and more. The brave move in at times of maximum gloom, as now. The trouble is that, as now, such gloom always looks so well-founded.

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Feline fine, but care proves costly

PETER TRIEVNOR

Tony Fitzpatrick, managing director of a media marketing consultancy, discovered only last week what an expensive risk it can be not to have pet insurance. On Sunday, August 31, he discovered his six-month-old kitten, Mouse, left badly injured after having been hit by a car outside his flat in Bow, East London.

Mr Fitzpatrick took the kitten to his nearest 24-hour veterinary hospital for emergency treatment. The kitten stayed overnight and was put on a drip. On the Monday, the kitten was anaesthetised and X-rays taken, which showed a broken femur. It also was suffering from a bruised shoulder and bladder. An operation took place on Tuesday. The total bill including VAT came to £569.88. Payment was due immediately on receipt of the invoice.

"When I took Mouse and my other kitten to the vet for inoculation, I did pick up a form for pet insurance thinking what a good idea it sounded. Unfortunately, I didn't have time to act on it before it was too late," said Mr Fitzpatrick. "I hadn't realised that an animal so small could incur such costs. In a way I was lucky: if it had broken its shoulder or damaged itself further, the bill could have been tripled."

Both kittens are now insured. However, if his injured kitten has any repercussions from the accident, a claim cannot be made.

Lizanne Rose looks at the insurance options for animal lovers

Pet peace of mind

About 6.9 million dogs and 7.2 million cats live in British homes. Just one in eight of these, and the other animals we keep as pets, are insured. About a dozen companies operate in the £100 million pet cover market, the best known being Pet Plan. Pet insurance is not cheap: you can expect to pay £116 a year to cover a dog for vet's fees, theft and accidental death.

If your Fido is a mongrel, then you can expect a discount as crossbreeds suffer fewer ailments than their pedigree chums. Paws, part of Jardine, the insurance broker, has a special Moggies and Mongrels policy.

The older your pet, the more expensive the cover. Insurers, with the exception of Woolwich Pet Guard, will almost always raise the premium for dogs over the age of eight. Petsurance will not cover any cat or dog over ten.

The typical pet policy also includes third party liability insurance of £1-£2 million for damage and injury caused by your pet.

The main reason for pet insurance is to cover vet's fees. These have risen over the past decade, as a result of rapid clinical and technical advances. If your dog has an hereditary defect or a hip problem, the bills could be £1,000 or more. For an operation on a cat's broken leg you can expect to pay £358, for a dog £509. Insurance will not meet the full amount of every claim because all policies carry an excess. Check whether your policy has a fixed or percentage excess. Pet Protect policies have a fixed excess which means that the owner pays a pre-set sum towards the cost of treatment, no matter how much the final bill might be. Pet Plan's excess, which is also fixed, varies depending on the area you live in. A percentage excess is on average 15 per cent of the amount claimed.

You cannot recover the cost of vaccinations (except for complications), preventative treatment, neutering or pregnancy or if your pet is already suffering from an illness or ailment. If you lose your pet, all policies provide towards its recovery costs which could include advertising and offering a reward. If your pet has permanently strayed or has been stolen, you would receive its purchase price.

EXOTIC PETS

Tim Sangster, managing director of Exotic Direct, the exotic animal insurer, says that for first-time owners insurance will offer peace of mind. "It is very easy to make a mistake when looking after an exotic pet and they can be expensive to replace." Exotic Direct's most popularly insured animal is the African Grey parrot, costing £400 to buy, which can be insured for £87 a year against accident, sickness or disease.

BIRDS

For bird owners, Golden Valley Insurance offers two levels of cover and will insure any breed, except chickens and ostriches. Standard cover will pay out if you lose your birds through theft, attack by vermin or during a storm, for a typical premium of £31.20 per £1,000 insured. The supercover policy for parrots and birds of prey includes accidental death and vet's fees up to £250 in one year and costs £15.60 per £100 of the bird's value.

HORSES

A horse is one of the most expensive animals to treat. You will be charged £70 or £80 for a vet to attend and offer minor treatment. A bill for £3,000 is not unusual. NFU Mutual's horse and pony policy offers cover for vet's fees up to £3,000 per incident, regardless of the number of claims made in any one year.

NFU Mutual: 01789 204211. Petplan Equestrian: 0800-212 248. Exotic Direct: 01444-482 946. Golden Valley Insurance: 01981 240536.

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	Cats £	Excess £	Dogs £	Excess £
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Pet Plan 0800 282009	Cat Plan[2] 5.05	30	Economy[2] 9.15	35
Paws Pet Insur 0121 626 7891	Complete cover[3] 6.75	50	Complete cover 10.80	50
Woolwich Pet Grd 01372 744164	Cat cover 6.50	30	Dog cover 11	35[4]
Age Concern 0800 590229	Cat cover 4.89	30	Dog cover[5] 6.37	50
Petsurance[6] 0990 502055	Standard 9.75 (pq)	50	Standard 15.75 (pq)	50

[1]Excess increases to £60 for dogs over 8 years. [2]Higher premium and excess applies for London and Home Counties. [3]If you prefer to pay a lower excess of £30, monthly premium will increase; basic cover is available but only includes veterinary bills; surcharge on premium applies for dogs in certain areas. [4]Excess increases to £80 for dogs 8 years and over. [5]Higher premium applies for London and Home Counties; available only to owners aged 55 and over. [6]No supplements charged for large breeds, pedigrees or postcode area; no cat or dog insured over the age of 10 years; £8 admin charge on first instalment.

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Legal & General Investment Management

Nanny State gets her marching orders

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

Without inordinate publicity, the Government has proposed radical changes to the way we organise our personal finances. These announcements have consequences not only for our disposable incomes, but also for the property market.

Some of the changes would hand over yet more responsibility for our future welfare to the insurance industry. Millions *must* already entrust their retirement savings to insurers. They may also need to rely on them during periods of sickness and disability (see page 31).

For the insurers, the Government's plans provide another money-making opportunity. In light of their behaviour in the past, they must be prepared for extra regulation, as presumably the Government has no wish to preside over the next century's mis-selling scandal. Sickness cover is currently unregulated. For individuals, these further moves towards the privatisation of welfare will be a wallet-pinching experience. Ministers favour flexible mortgages. When we felt flush, we would repay more; in lean times, little or nothing. But as such "payment holidays" would last only for a few months, we would also be compelled to cover our mortgages against redundancy or illness. We may also be obliged to insure our earnings against long- term sickness or disability, taking out permanent health cover as a substitute for state benefits.

Flexible mortgages are an eminently sensible solution for the self-employed and contract workers. But some lenders do not find these loans sufficiently profitable and will find ways to charge more.

Mortgage protection cover and permanent health insurance will be yet another strain on household finances. At present, most borrowers pay flat-rate premiums for mortgage cover. If insurance becomes compulsory, then companies will base the premium on the risk, meaning higher-cost cover for those in insecure jobs. Those who cannot get insurance, or who cannot afford it, may not be able to get loans and so will be forced to abandon home ownership. This has implications for house prices.

Those who are currently insurable should perhaps buy now while premiums take little account of circumstances. Many families will be hard pressed to afford their mortgages, as well as paying for their sickness cover. The recent cheapest quote for a healthy teacher and her middle-manager husband in their forties was £113 per month. Burdened by such outgoings, will Middle England be able to make the extra pension provision that the Government also desires? I doubt it.

Charitable Inland Revenue

Patrick Collinson on how Gift Aid can boost donations

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has urged the Inland Revenue to give more publicity to the tax reliefs available for charitable donations. His announcement is a response to concerns that the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund could be losing out on tens of millions of pounds because of the public's lack of awareness of the Government's Gift Aid scheme. This will pay the fund a tax rebate of £75 on a donation of £250.

Earlier in the week, several readers of *The Times* had urged the Government to promote the benefits of Gift Aid. Maurice Michaels, a reader from Hove, who had just made a donation to the fund, berated ministers for their failure to point out Gift Aid's advantages. He said: "The Revenue doesn't seem to tell anyone about this scheme. Most people don't know about it, even though I know from my own experience that it is quite easy and straightforward to do."

Gift Aid, introduced in 1990, allows a charity to reclaim basic rate tax on one-off donations of £250 or more, with further relief available for higher-rate taxpayers. But take-up of the scheme has been disappointing.

Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Party's Treasury spokesman, said: "Too little has been done to promote the benefits of Gift Aid, which could give a substantial boost to the memorial fund. Charities and newspapers could now make people more aware of Gift Aid in order to . . . raise the amount available for good causes."

All an individual has to do is fill in a simple Inland Revenue certificate, form R190 (SD), which most charities will send to a donor. If the charity does not have the form, it can be obtained from Inland Revenue claims offices in Bootle and Edinburgh.

If a donor sends £250 to the memorial fund, under the Gift Aid scheme this is treated as a gift made net of basic rate tax of 23 per cent. Armed with the certificate, the memorial fund is able to claim back tax from the gross earnings of the donor, earning the fund a rebate of £75.

It does not matter whether the donation is given via cheque, bank transfer or credit card. Nor does it matter if the donation has already been made — the donor simply needs to provide proof of payment (such as a credit card statement) to satisfy the Revenue.

The benefits are even greater if the donor is a higher-rate taxpayer. Maurice Fitzpatrick, a charity tax specialist of the accountants Chantrey Vellacott, says a 40 per cent taxpayer giving £250 will not only see the memorial fund receiving an extra £75, but will himself receive tax relief amounting to £55, or 17 per cent of £325. Under the Gift Aid scheme, it actually costs a higher-rate taxpayer £5 less to give £250 to the fund than if he or she gave £200 and did not qualify for relief.

Companies can also use Gift Aid to give to charities. Mr Fitzpatrick says: "If a company makes a £1,000 donation, it gives £770 to the charity and pays £230 (equal to basic rate tax) to the Revenue. The Revenue passes this on to the charity and the company can claim back the full £1,000 against corporation tax."

One major caveat on Gift Aid is that for a donor to qualify, he or she must be a taxpayer and living in the UK. The minimum gift must be £250, although there is no upper limit. The proceeds of fundraising events and money collected from other people does not qualify. The Inland Revenue has produced an easy-to-read guide on Gift Aid which can be obtained from local Revenue offices.

Gift Aid is not the only tax-efficient way of giving to charities. Deeds of covenant are widely used to give small amounts on a regular basis to charities such as churches. There is no minimum donation, but payments must be made at least once a year for four years to qualify.

Payroll deduction schemes offered by employers allow donors to give direct from their pre-taxed earnings up to £1,200 to the charities of their choice. A monthly donation of, say, £10 through Give As You Earn, the largest scheme of this type, costs the donor only £7.70, or £6 for higher-rate taxpayers.

The worthy causes championed by Diana, Princess of Wales can benefit from tax relief

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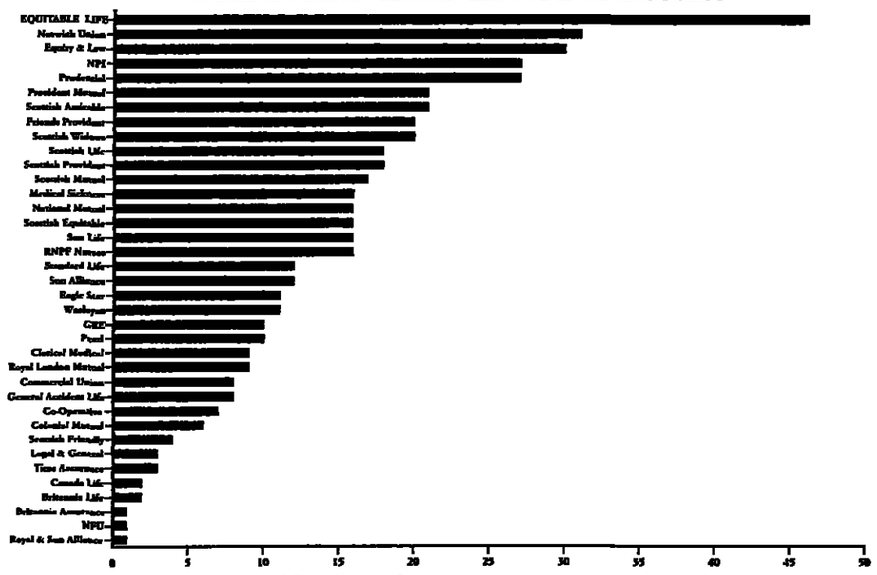

Number of top ten appearances

Source: Planned Savings surveys of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans 1974-1997

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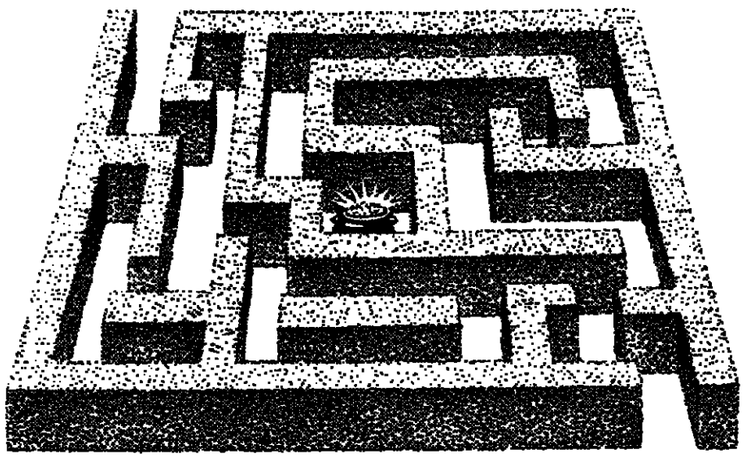

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T130997

The Tessa's future is now as fragile in the hands of the Government as Jessica Lange's was in the hands of King Kong

Clare Stewart finds the account's attraction undiminished

Investors hold Tessa in the highest esteem

The future of the Tessa may be uncertain but the enthusiasm of her fans remains undimmed. Since the launch of the tax-exempt special savings account in 1991, 4.5 million savers have seized the opportunity to shield their interest from the Revenue. Under current rules, you can invest up to £9,000 over five years and receive all your interest tax-free, provided the capital remains untouched. At the end of the five-year period, you can transfer the capital, but not the accumulated interest, into a new Tessa to continue to enjoy the tax benefits. This year Tessa followers will save £450 million in tax.

The element of uncertainty arrived with the Budget when Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, announced that a new tax-free scheme, the individual savings account (Isa), would be launched in April 1999. This, it is promised, will take the principles of Tessas and personal equity plans (Peps) one stage further. The Government says it will offer "an exciting and important opportunity to shape savings for everyone, not just existing Tessa and Pep investors".

The Revenue, together with the Treasury, having canvassed views from financial advisers, is now working on a consultation document which will be issued towards the end of the year. More detailed proposals are expected by mid-1998. In advance of these proposals, the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the investor watchdog, has warned financial advisers not to promote Peps and Tessas as if a closing-down sale were in progress. The prospect of change has prompted speculation that Tessas and Peps may be rolled into the new Isa or altered in some other way to reduce their attractions.

The possibility of such changes within two years might be thought enough to put off investors. Instead a number of building societies are reporting strong demand for Tessas, perhaps because of the above average rates available but also because investors want to make the most of the tax breaks while they can. Norwich & Peterborough Building Society is among those saying that the shadow over Tessa's future seems to cause little concern to customers.

Investment professionals are also taking a sanguine view. "Our advice to clients is to keep going with Tessas," says Mark Bolland at Chamberlain de Broe, the independent financial advisers. "The likelihood is that, whatever new scheme comes in, there will be the facility to transfer existing holdings across." Others are similarly relaxed about the prospect of big changes for Tessas. "I *cannot imagine that they will stop, and it* would seem fair that Tessas should run for their full five years," said Graham Hooper at Chase de Vere. Alastair Altham of Johnson Fry, the fund manager, said: "Investors should continue with Tessas. It would be extraordinary if the Government decided retrospectively to remove tax reliefs."

Since the beginning of this month, Tessa rates have been rising, as banks and building societies raised their investment rates in response to the increase in base rates. Some of the more generous rates are being paid by smaller building societies. Unfortunately, many will only accept local customers, as they wish to protect their mutual status from carpetbaggers. Others, such as the Cardiff-based Principality, allow locals to open accounts with £500. The Principality Tessa pays 7.65 per cent. Everyone else needs £2,500.

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Bank of Ireland (GB) 0800 971971	£3,000	7.50 F	14 day notice plus fee
Midland Bank 0800 180180	£100	7.50	14 day notice or 0.25% fee
Melton Mowbray BS 01664 63937	£1,000	7.50	90 day notice or 90 day loss
Norwich & Pet BS 01733 372222	£100	7.45	60 day loss of interest
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	£5,000	7.45 F	180 day loss of interest
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	£2,000	7.40	90 day notice
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Melton Mowbray BS 01664 63937	£1,000	7.50	90 day notice or 90 day loss
Shepshed BS 01509 503302	£3,000	7.50	£25 fee
Norwich & Pet BS 01733 372222	£100	7.45	28 day loss of interest
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	£2,000	7.40	90 day notice
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Norwich & Pet BS 01733 372222	£9,000	7.50 F	120 day loss of interest
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F = fixed rate.
Source: *Moneyfacts*

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Helen Pridham says a major Budget uncertainty has been removed

Revenue clarifies Pep transfers into Isas

The Budget announcement that spelt the demise of the Tessa was also the beginning of the end for the Pep. As highlighted in *The Times*, the Chancellor's statement caused some dismay among advisers who have been demanding to know more about how the transition between the two tax-exempt schemes and the new independent savings account (Isa) would be handled. Many were irritated at being left in limbo without any hard facts on which to base their advice.

However, Don Clark of Pepdirect has now received a reply to a letter to the Inland Revenue. This states that Pep investors will be able to transfer into the Isa, thus clarifying one of the uncertainties created by the Chancellor's speech.

Although no detail of the terms of the conversion are given, Mr Clark feels the reply is positive for Pep investors. He said: "The way it reads to me is that Peps will continue, albeit with a different name and within a different tax environment."

However, Mr Clark points out that the letter does not make clear whether Pep investors will be able to switch all or only a limited amount of their existing holdings into the new savings scheme, or exactly what form the "favourable tax environment" promised for Isas in the Budget will take.

There is also no clarification of the status of corporate-bond Peps, which makes it especially difficult for people reaching retirement who are looking for investments that will provide a supplementary income.

Peter Emms, group marketing director at M&G, the UK's second-largest Pep provider, said: "Although the Government announced that dividend tax credits will no longer be paid to Pep investors after April 5, 1999, there was no mention of the abolition of income tax credits on corporate-bond Peps. We are not sure whether this means that this class of Pep may possibility continue unchanged or not."

Beginning of the end for Peps: Gordon Brown before his announcement on Budget day

Yet in spite of these uncertainties, the consensus among Pep providers and advisers is that investors should continue to buy Peps. Graham Hooper of Chase de Vere, the adviser, said: "You can only plan for what you know and not what you don't know. If you analyse an investor's needs and decide a certain type of investment is appropriate, you must then look for the most tax-efficient and cost-effective way to purchase it. In the case of unit trusts, a Pep is often cheaper than a direct investment so we certainly would not dissuade investors from buying this type of Pep.

"With investment trusts or shares, the investor may have to pay an extra charge for the Pep wrapper. If the tax benefits do not outweigh the extra charges in the short term — which is certainly a danger for basic-rate taxpayers investing in low-yielding shares — then a Pep may not be the right answer," he added. Today, unit trust Peps make up the vast bulk of plans sold and Jason Hollands, of BESt Investment Brokers, said: "The worst case scenario is that there are no more tax benefits after 1999 but even if this is the case most people who have bought unit trusts will still have a jolly good investment."

Philip Warland, director-general of the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds, says that unit trust Peps are still worth having. "We want people to understand there is uncertainty but I don't think it should be overplayed and so far it does not appear to have put people off buying unit trust Peps." He is confident that unit trusts will be included in Isas and that their role may even be expanded with cash trusts available within the new framework.

Many in the investment industry are expecting the Government to put some limit on the amount that can be invested in Isas. Figures of £50,000 to £100,000 have been mentioned. But as Mr Hollands said: "We believe that even the Conservatives would have put a cap on Peps at some point because of the increasing amount of tax the Government was forgoing."

Investors who have managed to put the maximum amounts into Peps for many years could be affected by such limits. According to Chase de Vere, someone who had put the maximum of £82,200 into general and single-company Peps could now have a portfolio of £200,000-£300,000. But people should not be put off by the fear that may exceed the limit, says Simon Philip, of Binder Hamlyn, the accountant. "Investors who don't take up their Pep allowances will be pretty sick if they find out they could have converted them all into an Isa."

BESt Investment provides a guide to Pep best buys. For a free copy, ring 0990 112255.

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£25,000 +	6.90%	6.69%	6.90%
£10,000 +	6.85%	6.64%	6.85%

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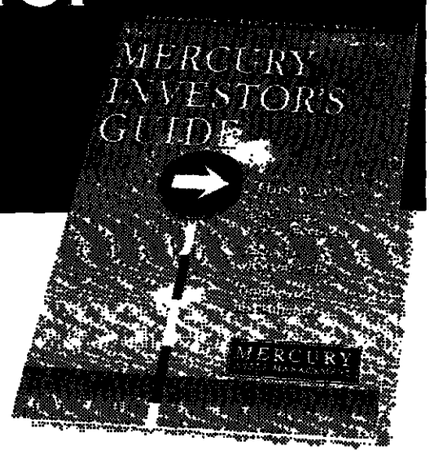

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Pension providers must get their priorities right

Not all mis-selling victims are made aware of their rights, says Karen Zagor

ANTHONY UPTON

Smiling through: Lesley Ireland was considered too young to be a priority case

Evidence is emerging that individuals potentially entitled to compensation for being mis-sold pensions may not have been contacted and informed of their rights.

At present, life companies are concentrating on the most urgent pension compensation cases, namely those who have retired or are close to retirement age. Possible mis-selling victims include anyone who received advice on a personal pension between April 28, 1988, and June 30, 1994, and who either transferred from or left their employer's scheme and bought a private pension or did not join an employer's scheme as a result of advice.

Until receiving a telephone call from *The Times*, Guardian Insurance had not considered Lesley Ireland, a senior midwifery sister, as a potential case for compensation, although one of its salesmen persuaded her to transfer her benefits from the National Health Service pension scheme with its unusually generous benefits for those who retire early through ill-health.

At 47, Mrs Ireland is too young to qualify as a priority case. But osteoarthritis, which drove her to give up work five years ago, has forced her into early retirement, making it essential that her situation be clarified as soon as possible.

The confused state of Mrs Ireland's pension affairs came to light only when she contacted *The Times*. It emerged that not only had she continued to make pension contributions, even though she was no longer working, a contravention of Inland Revenue regulations that Guardian probably should have spotted, but that she had also been removed from the NHS scheme.

Mrs Ireland said: "I wrote to Guardian when I first became too ill to work. But they never told me that I shouldn't be paying into the pension." Recently she contacted the company, asking about early retirement, and it sent her a pension offer. It also offered to reimburse her overpaid contributions.

After the intervention of *The Times*, Guardian has promised to look into Mrs Ireland's case. Julia Leisching, a Guardian spokeswoman, said: "Mrs Ireland was not in the group that the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the industry watchdog, said to review. But because her case is an oddity, we will look at it to see if there was any disadvantage of her transferring.

"We will now recalculate her pension, taking out the premiums she should not have paid. She will then be eligible to take early retirement. We can also speed up the return of the overpayments, plus interest.

"Anyone who thinks that they may have been mis-sold a pension and has not been contacted by us can write to us and we will include them with the priority cases."

The Department of Health has been particularly concerned about compensating NHS employees who were mis-sold personal pensions. It is estimated that tens of thousands of people may have been victims of mis-selling, yet only 200 have been reinstated in the NHS Pensions Scheme.

The SIB is now carrying out an awareness campaign and the NHS is one of the groups it is targeting. An SIB insert, explaining the pensions review, was sent out in the pay packets of nurses in August. The campaign will be extended to nurses in Scotland in October.

Meanwhile, Guardian says that it has special software just to calculate the value of pensions for people who transferred out of the NHS scheme.

Anyone who thinks that he or she has been mis-sold a personal pension should contact his or her pension provider. Those who are unhappy about how the firm is dealing with the complaint or who need to discuss the situation should ring the PIA Helpline on 0171-417 7001. For an SIB factsheet about the pension review, call: 0800-003 007.

Satisfaction might not be guaranteed

The word guarantee carries with it a particular allure. Plans or products that are guaranteed are imbued with an element of cast-iron security.

Hence, the appeal to the life insurance industry of a new set of guaranteed schemes aimed at compensating thousands of people who were mis-sold personal pensions. However, a leading firm of solicitors acting for hundreds of pensions mis-selling victims claims that the schemes could be seriously flawed.

Those policyholders who end up being compensated through this method could finish much worse off than those who are reinstated.

Guaranteed schemes offer policyholders who have been mis-sold a personal pension a promise that they will be reinstated into their occupational schemes. If the occupational schemes refuse to reinstate the personal pension policyholders, the policyholders are guaranteed that they will not suffer any financial loss as a result of being sold the product in the first place.

Companies that offer guarantees must continue to try to get the policyholders reinstated into their occupational schemes.

Three companies have so far introduced guarantees. These are Prudential, Legal & General and now Norwich Union.

Ringrose Wharton, the solicitors, said: "It is unrealistic to think that the SIB or any successor body will still be in existence at the date of retirement of young investors."

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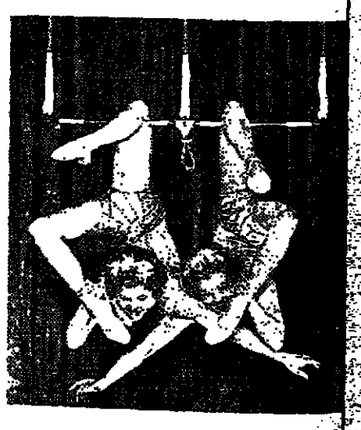

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Take stock of the jargon

Clare Stewart helps novice shareholders to find their way around the prices pages

Becoming a shareholder means learning a new language. In part two of Weekend Money's investment guide for beginners, we explain the jargon of the prices pages and stock market reports, two vital sources of information for those who wish to keep track of the performance of their investments.

We also explain what the influences are behind the movements of share prices.

INVESTMENT
A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

SHARES

An average investor will hold ordinary shares in a company. This means that you own a part of that company whether you have one share or one million. Shareholders as owners therefore have a stake in both the risks and rewards of the business.

DIVIDENDS

In return for risking capital, and provided the company is prospering, a shareholder receives income in the form of a dividend payment.

The amount of the payment is usually announced at the half year and year-end results. The ordinary shareholder is also entitled to vote on aspects of company policy put before the annual meeting as well as on important changes such as any proposed takeover or merger plans.

PRICE LISTINGS

Information on prices can be obtained in various ways, including from the City and business pages of newspapers and the Internet.

In *The Times* share listings, alongside the company name will be shown the previous day's closing price in pence, the change during the day and the year's highest and lowest price. If a share price has xd after it, that means ex-dividend, and anyone buying the shares will not receive the most recent dividend.

CAPITALISATION

In the Monday edition of *The Times* the market capitalisation is shown — the company's total value, calculated by multiplying the share price by the number of shares issued.

YIELD

The yield column in share listings is used to assess company performance and prospects, and for comparisons with similar businesses. The yield figure shows your income if you invest in the company.

High yields should show a company that is giving a good income from its dividends but has less chance of future dividend growth while a low yield should show a fast-growing company which has the possibility of making higher profits in the future and thus paying bigger dividends.

P/E RATIO

A sometimes more reliable way of comparing companies is through their price/earnings, or P/E, ratios. This looks at potential earnings growth of a company — earnings being the net profit available to shareholders devided by the number of shares in issue. Broadly speaking, a high price/earnings ratio shows a business with good growth potential. A low ratio indicates one with less dynamic prospects or one that is operating in a high-risk market.

REPORTS

Market reports show shares that changed the most and those most heavily traded. They will mention sentiment, which means the mood of the market. This may reflect the influence of the American Wall Street market, or it might be a response to encouraging economic news or even, more rarely, national euphoria after a big sporting victory. There may be talk of bulls and bears among investors. Bulls expect share prices to rise, while bears are pessimistic and expect them to fall.

INDICES

The movements of the FTSE 100 index (the Footsie) will be closely examined in the report. This is an index of the UK's 100 leading companies, the "blue chip" stocks. Its rises and falls are an indication not only of how investors view such important groups but also of the stock market's general sentiment.

There may also be reference to secondary stocks or second-liners. These are the slightly smaller groups outside the top 100 listing. These are classified under a number of indices starting with the FTSE 250, while the index for all quoted companies is the FTSE All-share index. In total there are 2,174 quoted companies, together valued at more than £1,200 billion.

ANALYSTS

A report will often say that shares in a company reacted to an analyst's note. Analysts, often highly paid and powerful people at their stockbroking firms, study companies within different sectors.

Their task is to make recommendations to their clients, primarily institutions, as to whether a share should be bought or sold. Their advice influences other investors, affecting demand for the share.

Tina Lomax and Mark Hewitt, members of Victoria Investments Club, one of the two investment societies being monitored by Weekend Money, check their share prices

Share prices driven by institutions

In the simplest terms share prices tend to rise when there are more buyers than sellers. Prices are driven by the demand of both private investors instructing stockbrokers to buy and sell on their behalf, but more importantly by the large institutional investors, such as the pension funds and insurance companies which have billions of pounds to invest.

The desirability of a company's shares to investors can be affected by any number of factors. Typically these will include details of how well the company is performing, announced through half-year and full-year results; how much it is paying shareholders through dividends; the appointment or departure of key members of the management team; the launch of a new product; or the gain or loss of important contracts.

Speculation that a company is about to receive a takeover bid will also drive share prices higher, though conversely plans announced by a company to buy a rival may knock its price lower. If the cost of the move is thought to be too high it could affect its ability to increase dividend payments. The company's share price will react to general as well as specific factors. Interest rate changes, for example, are very important, as are UK economic data and surveys. A report on the housing market may affect shares in housebuilders, for example, while a report saying consumer confidence is booming may lift shares in retailers.

Share prices also react to world events and trends in other stock markets, in particular the Dow Jones industrial average in America while, as was seen recently, the turmoil in the Far Eastern currency markets affected shares of those companies with a particular exposure to those countries such as HSBC, owner of the Midland Bank in the UK.

Equally, the strength of the pound is very influential. Its recent rise has meant that shares in companies with a large export business have been affected.

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*Based on a 25 year old contributing £100 a month until retirement at 60.
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£_____ per annum (min £600) £_____ single (min £2,000).
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*delete as appropriate
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0500 65 65 65
B10/DL12

†Projections based on an investment return of 9%. All insurance companies use the same rate of growth for illustrations but charges vary. These figures are only examples and are not guaranteed and what you get back depends on how your investment grows. Remember, inflation will reduce what you could buy in the future with the amount shown. Subject to Legal & General's agreement. Now and then, we may tell you about our other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please contact us. Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. Full written details of terms and conditions are available on request. Legal & General Direct Limited. Registered in England No. 2700280. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Britannia lifts rates for savers

Britannia Building Society is raising the interest rates on its savings accounts from Monday. Customers with a premium saver, higher saver and regular saver account will benefit from a rate increase of between 0.2 per cent and 0.6 per cent (with bonus). Britannia's platinum and maturity Tessa are to increase to 7.25 and 7.50 per cent respectively. Additionally, both children's accounts, the bright saver and 11-17, will see a rise of 0.5 per cent. Call 0800 132304.

☐ A guide that examines the effects of dividing pensions at the time of divorce has been produced by Colonial, the financial services provider. The four-page guide is aimed specifically at women and provides information on current and proposed pensions and divorce legislation. It also answers questions such as will I be entitled to part of my ex-husband's pension, how much of the pension will I get, will my own pension be affected and what will "pension sharing" mean? For a free copy, call 0800 828501.

☐ There are currently 10.5 million retired people and in 30 years' time this could increase to 15.8 million, leading to an increasing strain on the Government's spending. Many people may put off planning for retirement because they think the subject is complicated and confusing, says Merchant Investors Assurance, which has produced a free step-by-step guide to obtaining the right pension. *A Guide to Retirement Planning* explains the tax reliefs available, discusses pension contribution levels, and the best methods of pension purchase. Call 0800 374 857.

☐ Mistakes made through misunderstanding how insurance works could prove very expensive, according to *Perfect Insurance*, written by Marie Jennings. The 80-page book aims to make the subject of insurance more accessible by guiding you through the small print in insurance policies. It explains how best to safeguard your life, your health, your home, car and possessions and provides advice on where to go for help when you feel that your insurance company is not playing fair. The book will be published on September 25, priced £5.99.

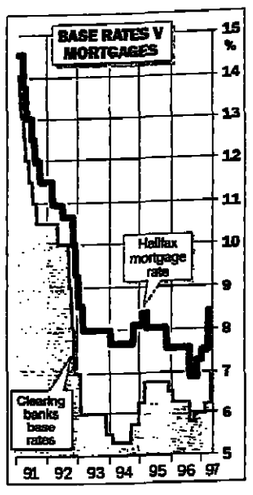
LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Inst Access	Instant	£1	6.50	Yly
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	Inst Access	Postal	£500	6.65	Yly
C&G 0800 742437	Inst Transfer	InstantB	£1,000	7.00	Yly
Alliance & Leic BS 0845 6088860	First Cls Inst	Postal	£10,000	7.50	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	60 Day Notice	60 day p	£500	6.80	Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 40	40 day p	£5,000	7.30	Yly
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct	60 day p	£10,000	7.60	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 90	90 day p	£25,000	7.65	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£2,500	7.65	Yly
Hanley Economic BS 0800 838811		5 year	£500	7.60	Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505		5 year	£3,000	7.60	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Premier+feeder	5 year	£9,000	7.55	Yly



CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	Nil
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Nil
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.87%C	10.90%	Nil

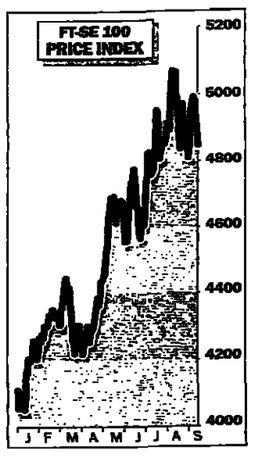
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.60%A	£183.75	£166.38
Hamilton Direct Bank 0800 303000	12.90%	£189.98	£166.65
Alliance & Leic Grp 0990 626262	13.30%	£187.73	£167.56

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)



NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact ☎
Ordinary A/c[1]	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*[5]	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**[17]	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*[5]	6.50	5.20	3.90	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond[4]	6.25	5.00	3.75	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
44th Issue Certs[2,5]	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bonds[5]	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
11th Ind Linked†[3]	2.75			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3[5]	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000[6]	60day	0645 645000

[1] first £70 (£140 if) of int tax free. Inst accs for up to £100 [2] Unlimited additional holding for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble [3]Guaranteed when held for 5 years [4]0.2% net bonus for £20,000+ [5]£100,000 if in addition to S1 and S2 holdings [6]Taxable but credited in full [7]£500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life	Level	£ 9,430	£10,516	£11,997
Norwich Un	Level	£ 9,578	£10,512	£11,816
Equitable Lf	Level	£ 9,534	£10,462	£11,675
Sun Lf of Can	Level	£ 9,359	£10,412	£11,846
Prudential	Level	£ 9,452	£10,374	£11,643
SINGLE LIFE	**Female:**	**Age 60**	**Age 65**	**Age 70**
Prudential	Level	£8,977	£ 9,782	£10,966
Norwich Un	Level	£9,010	£ 9,729	£10,805
Generali	Level	£8,697	£ 9,618	£10,885
Canada Life	Level	£8,727	£ 9,543	£10,734
Sun Lf of Can	Level	£8,609	£ 9,362	£10,464
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	**Male: / Female:**	**Age 60 / Age 55**	**Age 65 / Age 60**	**Age 70 / Age 65**
Norwich Un	Level	£8,567	£9,097	£ 9,761
Prudential	Level	£8,499	£9,032	£ 9,851
Canada Life	Level	£8,295	£8,921	£ 9,807
Generali	Level	£8,225	£8,873	£ 9,783
Equitable Lf	Level	£8,277	£8,813	£ 9,547

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at September 11, 1997

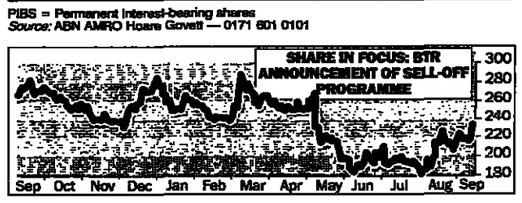
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.05
	5,000	AIG Life	6.24
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.80*
2 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.60
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.45
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.60
	50,000	GE Fin Assur	6.65
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.75
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	20,000	GE Fin Assur	6.58
	50,000	GE Fin Assur	6.68
4 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.00
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.20
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.70

* Limited Edition.
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	120.34	7.759	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	145.00	8.017	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	162.07	8.021	100.20	10,000
Britannia	13.000%	162.27	8.011	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	152.28	7.908	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	144.42	8.136	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	167.34	7.993	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	133.55	8.012	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	157.41	8.020	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	156.64	8.060	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	161.11	7.991	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03)	9.04063%	119.00	100.00	1,000
First Natl(22/09-20/03)	9.12031%	104.00	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent Interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chelsea 0800 291 291	5.39	£20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.8.99
Northern Rock 0800 591500	5.24	to £250k	90	Fixed to 1.1.00
Bradford & Bingley 0800 570800	5.60	£15k+	85	2.10% discount for 2 years
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mths 3% disc-6 mths
Bristol & West 0117 979 2222	2.90	No max	90	Fixed to 1.9.98

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98
Leeds & Holbeck 0113 225 7777	0.99	to £180k	95	7% dsc-6 mths, 1% dsc-12 mths
Scarborough 0990 133149	1.20	£30-100k	95	6.99% dsc-6 mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed-6 months, 3% dsc-6 months
Bristol & West 0117 979 2222	2.90	no max	90	Fixed to 1.9.98

FIRST TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Newbury 01635 43676	4.85	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Mansfield 01246 202055	2.20	£25-250k	90	6%dsc-6mth,1.49% 6mth,0.99%-12mth
Clay Cross 01246 862120	5.25	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 12 months
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01189 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mths, 3% disc 6 mths
Halifax 01422 333333	5.45	£25-250k	95	3% disc-30.9.99, 0.5%over svr-10.04

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Bay's Guides Ltd. (01753 880482).

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AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE
0131 339 6911

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	570.40	603.70	- 8.40	...
UK Equity	771.50	816.50	-16.50	...
Property	448.10	472.10	- 0.50	...
Fixed Interest	372.20	393.90	- 0.40	...
Money	278.00	294.20	+ 0.30	...
International	474.20	501.90	- 9.60	...

ABBEY LIFE
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth
BH8 8AL
01202 292373

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Custodian S4	213.40	224.70	- 0.90	...
Ethical S4	172.50	181.60	- 3.40	...
International S4	238.80	251.40	- 1.60	...
Protected Gth S4	130.50	137.40	- 0.50	...
Asian Pacific	213.70	225.00	+ 4.50	...
European S4	260.80	274.60	- 4.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	433.90	456.80	+ 0.10	...
Equity Ser 4	304.70	320.80	- 3.50	...
Man Ser 4	866.00	911.60	- 5.50	...
Conv Ser 4	364.90	384.20	+ 0.30	...
Money Ser 4	364.60	383.80	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	425.70	446.00	+ 1.00	...
American Ser 4	834.90	878.90	-18.50	...
High Inc Ser 4	943.20	992.90	- 9.60	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	241.00	253.70	+ 0.90	...
Japan Ser 4	293.60	309.10	-10.40	...

ALBANY LIFE
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ
01707 42311

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fd Acc	2155.90	2269.30	-21.60	...
European Fd Acc	556.20	585.50	- 0.90	...
Fixed Int Acc	604.30	636.00	+ 1.40	...
Gtd Money Acc	371.40	390.90	+ 0.40	...
Intl Managed Acc	835.90	879.90	-17.40	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	576.10	948.00	+ 0.20	...
Japan Fund	248.40	261.40	- 9.90	...
N American Acc	498.70	524.90	- 9.50	...
Prop Fd Acc	503.80	530.30	+ 0.30	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1337.20	1407.60	-15.10	...

ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE
Swindon SN1 1EL
01793 514514

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Fxd Int Dep Acc	416.90	438.90	+ 0.30	...
Equity Acc	1933.00	2034.80	-45.90	...
Property Acc	714.30	751.80	+ 0.90	...
Far East Acc	322.70	339.70	- 3.40	...
Managed Capital	672.20	707.20	-12.20	...
-do- Acc	1457.40	1534.20	-26.80	...
Overseas Acc	1362.70	1434.50	-30.60	...
Gth Edged Acc	596.20	627.60	+ 1.60	...
Amer Equity Acc	1362.10	1433.80	- 9.40	...
Amer Man Acc	563.00	592.70	-13.80	...
Amer Prop Acc	120.50	126.80	+ 0.40	...
Distribution Bonds	26.80	28.30	+ 0.10	...

AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks
HP14 4EA6AA

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Reserve Ser 6	188.20	195.90	+ 0.30	...
Balced Ser 6	959.90	1010.40	-18.60	...
Opportunity Ser 6	322.50	334.20	- 5.10	...
Distribution Ser 6	109.10	114.80	- 0.60	8.42
UK Equities Ser 6	1440.90	1516.70	-35.40	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1478.20	1556.00	-28.10	...
North Amer Ser 6	713.40	750.90	-10.40	...
Far East Ser 6	554.70	583.90	-14.10	...
Europe Ser 6	566.50	596.30	- 9.80	...
Intnl Ser 6	746.80	786.10	-15.40	...
Property Ser 6	627.70	660.70	+ 0.70	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	521.50	548.90	+ 1.20	...
Intl-Linkd Sec Ser	210.00	221.00	+ 0.60	...
Gtred Dep Ser 6	332.40	349.90	+ 0.20	...

BARCLAYS LIFE
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB
0151 534 5544

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Equity Acc	1238.50	1303.70	-24.60	...
-do- Initial	742.90	782.00	-14.80	...
Gilt Edged Acc	474.50	499.50	+ 1.20	...
-do- Initial	287.10	302.20	+ 0.80	...
International Acc	498.30	525.00	- 8.60	...
-do- Initial	298.40	314.20	- 5.10	...
Managed Acc	705.70	742.90	-11.10	...
-do- Initial	425.70	448.20	- 6.70	...
Money Acc	324.20	341.30	+ 0.30	...
Property Acc	336.90	354.70	+ 0.30	...
-do- Initial	202.50	213.20	...	...
America Acc	467.50	492.20	-12.70	...
Far East Gwth	249.30	262.50	...	...
Financial Acc	556.20	587.00	-13.10	...
500 Accum	535.00	563.25	- 0.40	...
Income Acc	228.70	241.90	- 9.40	...
Income Acc	718.10	759.90	-10.00	...
Special Sits Acc	372.90	392.80	- 7.70	...
Utlk Tech Acc	204.40	215.20	- 4.40	...

BLACK HORSE LIFE
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JT
01634 834008

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
The Managed Fd	1063.81	1120.81	-12.89	...
Income Fund	1043.14	1098.05	-21.24	...
Extra Income	939.33	988.77	-14.27	...
Worldwide Gth	617.62	650.13	- 5.15	...
Balanced Fund	913.77	961.87	-19.57	...
Smlr Cos Recov	1089.15	1142.27	- 3.13	...
N Amer & Genl	562.81	592.70	- 6.35	...
Pacific Basin	399.51	420.54	+16.68	...
German Growth	311.70	328.11	- 1.98	...
Japan Growth	157.01	165.28	- 1.08	...
The UK Gth Fd	296.79	312.42	- 6.05	...
Contl Euro Gth	194.20	204.43	- 1.96	...
Property Fund	438.39	461.47	- 0.44	...
Fixed Interest	398.14	416.99	+ 1.21	...
Cash Fund	314.94	331.52	- 0.28	...
Managed Inv	630.00	663.10	- 8.13	...
Nth Amer Recov	377.48	397.35	+ 6.70	...
Altered Fund				...
Managed Gth	526.44	554.15	+11.49	...

BRITANNIA
50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR
0141 248 2800

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Perf	228.30	241.60	- 3.10	...
Performance Plus	274.00	289.90	+ 4.10	...
With Profits Perf	196.70	208.10	+ 0.20	...
UK Opportunity	295.70	312.70	- 6.90	...
Euro Opportunity	318.00	336.50	- 6.00	...
North Amer Opp	300.40	317.80	- 4.40	...
Far East Opp	222.20	235.00	+ 2.30	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	184.60	194.40	+ 6.20	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	216.50	228.10	...	...
Fixed Int	245.70	260.10	+ 0.30	...
Cash	176.30	186.40	+ 0.10	6.49
Overseas	315.80	334.20	+ 4.80	...
Formerly L&S				
Managed Fund	478.20	503.40	- 6.60	...
UK Equity	894.30	941.40	-20.60	...
Property	298.80	314.60	...	...
Money Market	229.30	234.00	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	357.20	376.00	+ 0.40	...
Japan	309.80	326.20	- 9.30	...
North America	267.30	281.40	- 3.90	...
International	488.00	513.70	+ 7.30	...
European	406.70	428.20	- 7.60	...
Far East	164.50	173.20	+ 1.70	...

CANADA LIFE
24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA
01707 51122

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed	434.70	457.60	- 5.60	...
Property	287.00	302.20	+ 0.20	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	286.30	301.40	+ 0.70	...
Equity	534.80	563.00	-10.20	...
Cash	238.20	250.80	+ 0.20	...
CLife Euro Mgd	513.90	541.00	- 5.50	...
CLife Intl Fd	402.60	423.80	- 3.80	...
Managed Fund	928.00	976.80	-12.10	...
Property Fund	583.60	614.30	+ 0.50	...
Equity Fund	1319.70	1389.20	-25.30	...
Gth Edged Fd	738.60	777.50	+ 1.70	...
Deposit Fund	368.30	387.70	+ 0.40	...
Investment Fd	588.70	618.20	-12.00	...
International	640.80	674.50	- 6.10	...

CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd,
Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Property Fund	189.30	199.30	...	...
Managed Fund	850.60	895.40	-12.20	...
Equity Fund	548.70	546.00	-11.80	...

CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	378.00	397.90	- 6.10	...
Ruby	212.40	223.60	- 3.70	...
Emerald	167.60	176.50	- 0.30	...
Equity	456.10	480.20	- 8.70	...
Property	250.90	264.20	+ 0.20	...
Gtd & Fixed Int	248.50	261.60	+ 0.50	...
Indexed Secs	192.70	202.90	+ 0.40	...
Cash	207.70	218.70	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	379.10	399.10	- 1.30	...
Far East	291.00	306.40	+ 0.90	...
International	304.00	320.10	- 5.30	...
Special Sits	483.90	509.40	- 0.30	...
Intl Income	416.00	437.90	- 8.90	...
European	482.70	508.20	- 9.20	...
Japanese	117.05	123.20	- 5.00	...
US Asia	406.90	428.40	- 1.90	...
With Profits Reg	195.40	205.70	+ 0.30	...
-do- Spec	195.40	205.70	+ 0.30	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	430.10	473.10	+ 0.30	...
Equity	583.40	616.30	-16.60	...
Property	234.90	247.30	+ 0.10	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	324.40	341.50	+ 0.80	...
Index Linked	206.50	217.40	+ 0.50	...
Cash	287.70	302.90	+ 0.40	...
Nth American	476.80	502.00	- 1.60	...
Far East Acc	307.80	324.10	-11.30	...
International Acc	390.10	390.10	- 6.50	...
Special Sits	741.40	780.50	- 1.20	...
European Flex	711.10	748.60	-13.20	...

COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
(Units): Key 1	270.82	...	- 3.43	...
-do- Pacemaker 1	421.39	...	- 5.30	...
-do- Cash	224.06	235.85	+ 0.19	...
-do- Equity	750.16	789.64	-13.34	...
-do- Fxd Int	436.18	459.14	- 0.56	...
-do- Managed	529.93	557.82	- 7.83	...
-do- Property	382.92	403.07	- 1.65	...
(Pens): Cash Cap	217.92	229.40	+ 0.12	...
-do- Cash Im	351.56	370.07	+ 0.44	...
-do- Equity Cap	1966.58	2070.09	-51.13	...
-do- Equity Im	3172.56	3339.55	-80.18	...
-do- Fixed Cap	468.05	492.68	+ 0.51	...
-do- Fixed Im	755.07	794.82	+ 1.35	...
-do- Index Cap	218.84	230.57	+ 1.02	...
-do- Index Inv	353.05	371.64	+ 1.89	...
-do- Mngd Cap	770.74	811.32	-16.21	...
-do- Mngd Inv	1243.36	1308.84	-25.26	...

COMMERCIAL UNION
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0HT 0171 283 7500

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Var Ann Acc (S) †	1116.15	...	- 5.97	...
Var Ann (S) †	132.87	...	- 0.46	...
Prime: Managed	528.32	556.20	-11.10	...
Prime: UK Equity	690.80	733.50	-18.80	...
Prime: Int Equity	362.10	381.20	- 8.00	...
Prime: Property	265.30	279.30	+ 0.30	...
Prime: Fxd Int	275.40	289.90	+ 0.50	...
Prime: Index-Lnk	194.10	204.40	+ 0.80	...
Prime: Cash	228.80	240.90	+ 0.20	...

CONFEDERATION LIFE
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN
01438 744849

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Fund	1451.10	1527.40	-15.30	...
Equity II	2210.40	2326.70	+ 1.30	...

For Crown see Windsor

EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE
Montpelier Drive, Cheltenham, GL50 1LQ.
01242 221491

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Life Funds				
(I) With Pfts (Sbd) †	116.50	...	+ 0.30	...
Secure (2) †	110.60	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (3) †	128.90	...	- 1.30	...
Equity Mngd (3) †	129.40	...	- 2.10	...
Adventurous (3) †	120.10	...	- 2.90	...
Bristol & West (2) †	112.40	...	+ 0.20	...
Equity Mgd S1	313.20	329.70	- 5.50	...
Managed S1	311.50	327.90	- 4.40	...
Adventurous S1	248.30	261.40	- 6.40	...
Managed (2)	210.90	222.10	- 2.90	...
Eagle/Mid Uts	408.40	423.30	- 7.00	0.01
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (3) †	116.60	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) †	111.20	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (2) †	122.70	...	- 2.10	...
Equity Mngd (2) †	129.60	...	- 2.60	...
Adventurous (2) †	120.30	...	- 3.30	...
Bristol & West (2) †	113.10	...	+ 0.20	...

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH
01722 413366

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed	414.90	438.80	- 7.00	...
UK Equity	579.20	609.70	-10.40	...
Stewardship	486.40	512.00	- 0.20	...
Overseas Equity	382.00	402.20	- 7.60	...
North American	235.30	247.70	- 6.10	...
Pacific Basin	177.60	187.00	- 3.10	...
European	374.60	394.40	- 6.50	...
Property	197.20	207.60	...	...
Fixed Interest	288.80	304.10	+ 0.50	...
Index Linked	194.30	204.60	+ 0.70	...
Cash	223.90	235.70	+ 0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex Nbt				
Fixed Interest	634.10	672.70	+ 1.10	...
Managed	933.00	982.10	-15.30	...
Deposit	381.90	403.00	+ 0.30	...
Property	561.70	591.20	+ 0.70	...
American	656.70	691.20	-18.50	...
Australian	708.60	745.80	- 9.00	...
European	883.60	930.10	-15.10	...
International	1022.40	1076.20	- 8.00	...
-do- Dist	556.40	585.60	-11.00	6.37
International	402.00	423.10	- 8.30	...
Japan Smaller	327.10	344.30	-11.90	...
Singapore & Mal	407.70	430.20	- 9.90	...
Smaller Cos	589.90	620.90	-14.70	...
Tokyo Fund	599.50	631.00	-17.00	...
UK Equity	809.40	852.00	-16.00	...
CEM Vanpd Mg	994.60	1046.90	- 5.70	...

GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD
Albany Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond
EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
GT Plan Far East	325.10	342.30	+ 8.50	...
GT Plan Worldw	597.20	628.70	- 8.50	...

GAN LIFE & PENSIONS
Gan House, Harlow, Essex
CM20 2EW. 01279 626262

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Portfolio Acc	846.20	846.20	- 9.80	...
-do- Inv A	846.10	890.80	-10.20	...
UK Equity	559.30	588.90	- 6.70	...
Gilt Plus	236.30	248.80	+ 0.30	...
Managed	385.40	405.80	- 4.60	...

GENERAL ACCIDENT
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628882

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed	577.30	592.00	- 2.90	...
Untitled Profit	166.30	175.10	- 0.30	...
UK Equity	410.10	431.60	- 8.40	...
Fixed Int	231.80	243.90	+ 0.50	...
Index-Linked	186.50	196.30	+ 0.30	...
Cash Deposit	193.20	203.30	+ 0.20	...
Property	193.30	203.30	+ 0.20	...
International	220.80	232.

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Where are the monthly prizes from my 20,000 Premium Bonds?

From Mr C.A. Ingram

Sir, Ernie should be sending me, and every *other holder* of 20,000 Premium Bonds, a prize every month. However, this claim by National Savings, together with the one that every bond has an equal chance of winning, must be treated with a large degree of scepticism.

According to the sales booklet a holder of 20,000 bonds should expect to receive a total of 13 prizes per year — an average of one per month. Pro rata, a block of 5,000 would be expected to win three or four prizes, yet one of my blocks of 5,000 has failed to win any prize in 13 months.

A set of 15,000 bonds, (including the above block of 5,000 and another consecutive one £5,000), has failed to win any prize in seven months. Again this is at variance with the claim that every bond enjoys an equal probability of one in 19,000 of winning in every draw. If these odds were correct then the probability of 15,000 bonds not winning a prize in seven months would be *zero* (or 0.004 to be more precise). The probability of a 5,000 block *not winning a* prize in 13 months is 0.3.

Contrary to the 13 prizes expected, only six, amounting to £400, have been received, ie, an annual return of only 2 per cent — less than the rate of inflation, implying a negative investment. A total of £750 from the expected 11 prizes of £50 and 2 of £100 would at least be a positive return on capital but my experience belies the claim that Premium Bonds are a serious investment.

As always, it seems the many unpublicised losers are subsidising the few big winners. It is, of course, all a question of statistics. The main winner, provided the *odds are correctly calculated*, is the bookie — or in this case, National Savings.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN INGRAM,
11 North Grange Road,
Bearsden,
Glasgow.

Agents do not prolong the housebuying process

From The President, The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Sir, I must take issue with Anne Ashworth in her Weekend Money comment (Cleaning up housing soap opera, August 30).

Estate agents certainly do not have a vested interest in prolonging the housebuying process. Our clients employ us to secure the best price in the shortest possible time and that is our objective. Admittedly, delay can occur between offer and completion but this is the remit of a whole complex of ill-defined reasons which are unlikely to be solved by one initiative alone.

The Government recognises this and has set up an inquiry into the whole transactional process and that is why my profession, along with others involved, is *co-operating* wholeheartedly with Hilary Armstrong's team in facilitating that research.

Our intention, in so doing, is to fulfil our clients' instructions more cost-effectively and efficiently.

Yours faithfully,
PETER McKENDRICK,
The President,
The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors,
12 Great George Street,
Parliament Square,
SW1.

Breathtaking bonus rate

From Mrs K.A. Smith

Sir, I was interested to read your comment on the Britannia Building Society (Instant turn-off, August 30). I would like to point out that they aren't all that *generous to their good regular* customers either.

With a balance rarely under £20,000 in 1996, the much vaunted loyalty bonus came to £34.93 (net). Then in August I received another letter saying it was now decided to include Permanent Interest Bearing Shares (Pibs) in the bonus calculation so they were now pleased to forward the amount due on the £2,000 which was ... 28p! because of the £20,000 top limit that could be counted.

I have checked again today and the interest rates are still 5.75 per cent on £10,000 and 6.25 per cent on £20,000.

My immediate reaction after getting the letter was to withdraw a large sum from Britannia (leaving a balance in case of privatisation) *in favour of converted* building societies.

C&G are paying 7 per cent on £1,000 and Abbey National 7.25 per cent on £10,000 (all postal accounts which I found more convenient — there is a box at the end of the road).

It was, however, that letter which cut through the general inertia we all feel about moving accounts.

Yours faithfully,
K. SMITH,
17 Riviera Apartments,
Off Boskerris Road,
Carbis Bay,
St Ives,
Cornwall.

DIY pension funds to help one another

From Mr M. Bullock.

Sir, The introduction of a second-tier compulsory pension will be a necessary but incomplete solution to the problem of inadequate retirement income. Contributions will be set too low to sustain many pensioners for 30 to 40 years.

What is missing is a user-friendly and low-cost method by which anyone, voluntarily, can contribute directly to another's retirement fund. The wish to put assets to work for the eventual benefit of another is not confined to a narrow socio-economic affluent group familiar with accumulation and maintenance trusts.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BULLOCK,
16 Byron Drive,
Wickham Bishops,
Witham, Essex.

Not my type at all

From Mrs A. Fox

Sir, My pet hate is the "Up to X%" in giant type in advertisements for bank and building society savings accounts. The rate is very high but only by perusing the small print does one discover that it only applies to sums of £100,000 or more. Do advertisers take us for idiots or are we idiots to be taken in by such a ploy?

Yours faithfully,
AVRIL FOX,
126 Edgwarebury Lane,
Edgware, Middlesex.

CGT ALLOWANCES — JULY 1997

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in July 1997

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
January	-	0.907	0.814	0.727	0.636	0.575	0.525	0.419
February	-	0.898	0.806	0.713	0.630	0.569	0.519	0.409
March	0.883	0.895	0.800	0.697	0.628	0.566	0.513	0.402
April	0.944	0.869	0.777	0.662	0.613	0.547	0.489	0.378
May	0.930	0.861	0.770	0.654	0.610	0.546	0.483	0.370
June	0.924	0.856	0.766	0.651	0.611	0.546	0.477	0.365
July	0.924	0.846	0.768	0.654	0.615	0.547	0.476	0.364
August	0.923	0.838	0.751	0.649	0.610	0.543	0.460	0.360
September	0.924	0.830	0.748	0.650	0.602	0.538	0.453	0.351
October	0.915	0.824	0.737	0.648	0.600	0.531	0.438	0.340
November	0.905	0.817	0.732	0.642	0.586	0.523	0.432	0.329
December	0.909	0.813	0.733	0.640	0.581	0.525	0.428	0.328

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
January	0.318	0.210	0.162	0.142	0.115	0.079	0.049	0.020
February	0.310	0.203	0.156	0.135	0.108	0.072	0.044	0.016
March	0.297	0.199	0.152	0.131	0.105	0.068	0.040	0.014
April	0.259	0.183	0.135	0.120	0.092	0.057	0.032	0.008
May	0.248	0.180	0.131	0.116	0.088	0.053	0.030	0.004
June	0.243	0.174	0.131	0.117	0.088	0.051	0.029	Nil
July	0.242	0.177	0.135	0.119	0.094	0.056	0.033	
August	0.230	0.174	0.134	0.115	0.088	0.051	0.029	
September	0.218	0.170	0.130	0.110	0.086	0.046	0.024	
October	0.209	0.166	0.126	0.111	0.085	0.051	0.024	
November	0.212	0.162	0.127	0.112	0.084	0.051	0.023	
December	0.212	0.161	0.131	0.110	0.079	0.045	0.020	

The RI month is October in relation to disposals on or after April 6 1985 (Nov. 1 1985 for companies) is the month in which the average expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the asset was acquired before that month.

DIRECT LINE RATES

SAVINGS RATES	
Direct Line Instant Access Account	
BALANCE	ANNUAL GROSS RATE
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£25,000–£49,999	6.75%
£50,000–£99,999	6.90%
£100,000+	7.00%
MORTGAGE RATE	
Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate	
VARIABLE RATE	7.59%
APR	7.8%

All rates correct at 8th September 1997.

DIRECT LINE FINANCIAL SERVICES

0181 649 9099 MORTGAGES | 0181 667 1121 SAVINGS

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Source: Direct Line Financial Services. For further information about either of the Direct Line products listed above, please phone the appropriate number above quoting ref. TTBB22

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THE WEEK IN MONEY

NORWICH UNION became the latest insurance company to offer a guaranteed scheme for those who have been mis-sold a personal pension. The insurance company has said it is reviewing more than 6,000 personal pension policies and is offering the scheme in an effort to meet a deadline set by the Treasury for dealing with priority cases. However, a leading firm of lawyers has criticised such guaranteed schemes as full of potential loopholes.

☐ Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, announced on Tuesday that she had decided to resign from the PIA and would not be applying for any of the top jobs in Newro, the Government's planned single financial services regulator. Her statement has stunned the financial services industry, coming less than two months before Howard Davies is due to announce his "super-SIB" management team. Ms Bowe had been criticised in March by the House of Commons' all-party Treasury Committee for the PIA's slowness in resolving the £4 billion pensions mis-selling scandal, which is believed to have affected up to 1.5 million people.

☐ *Mortgage lenders* have been urged by the Government to take responsibility for providing an insurance safety net to catch borrowers who fall on hard times. Hilary Armstrong, Housing Minister, said on Monday that it must be for the lenders and insurers to take the lead in ensuring that homebuyers are better protected.

☐ In a co-ordinated move, the Bank of England and the PIA have pounced on two firms run by a Gloucester financial adviser suspected of carrying out unlicensed deposit-taking, by obtaining an injunction against Peter John Naylor, who trades as Naylor Financial Services and Naylor Investment Services. *He is prevented from marketing* or conducting a deposit-taking business or disposing of his assets.

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ACA REALTY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 358 231				
General Acc	798.30	849.30	−23.10	2.35
General Inc	650.60	692.20	−30.60	2.35
UK Growth Acc	532.80	567.90	−15.50	2.22
UK Growth Inc	353.30	376.90	− 9.90	2.22
Higher Inc Acc #	886.90	1049.80	−21.90	4.54
Higher Inc Inc #	517.70	550.80	−11.50	4.54
Gilts/Fed Int Acc	224.40	237.00	+ 0.60	5.46
Gilts/Fed Int Inc	93.47	98.72	+ 0.27	5.46
Nth American	438.50	466.40	− 8.80	.
Europe	437.20	465.30	− 9.30	0.07
Bdl Growth	110.40	117.50	− 3.10	2.37
Bnl Fixed Acc	135.90	144.60	− 1.90	4.40
Bnl Fixed Inc	87.26	92.84	− 3.77	4.40
Global Opps	115.40	122.80	− 3.10	.
Balanced Acc	72.84	77.71	− 1.46	2.18
Balanced Inc	67.52	71.83	− 1.33	2.18
Japan Acc	40.80	42.65	− 1.97	.
Pac Basin Acc	382.00	406.40	− 4.10	1.19
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	135.90	144.20†	+ 0.30	6.32
High Inc Equity	211.40	226.10	− 3.30	4.46
Worldwide Bond	298.00	305.30†	− 0.80	3.47
American Growth	510.70	564.50	−14.90	0.30
Asian Pacific	338.90	353.80	− 8.70	0.39
Assets & Earnings	339.70	362.50	− 8.10	2.65
Euro Capital Acc	236.30	252.70	− 5.10	0.79
Extra Inc	43.61	46.39†	− 0.15	6.47
General	303.50	322.90†	− 5.90	3.04
Global Opps	82.06	87.30†	− 1.54	0.37
Japan	94.56	101.10	− 3.60	.
Managed Inc	51.45	54.73†	− 0.37	4.11
Mastertrust	188.90	202.00	− 3.50	1.10
US Emerging Cos	220.20	236.60	+ 0.20	.
Ethical	85.90	91.38	− 2.42	2.00
International	152.60	162.70	− 2.40	0.83
Dividend & Growth	77.98	82.94	− 1.20	4.21
Global Bonds & Exc	77.49	82.78	− 0.06	2.44
Latin America	85.97	102.10†	− 2.40	0.66
Capital Reserve	150.80	150.80	+ 0.20	4.84
ABBEY NATIONAL UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0141 275 8500				
MAP UK Growth	107.10	113.90†	− 2.40	3.10
Equity Income #	147.70	157.10†	− 3.10	3.20
Extra Income #	283.00	301.00†	− 3.70	6.06
Smaller Cos	105.50	112.30	− 0.60	1.76
International	129.76	137.90	− 4.30	1.32
ABERDEEN UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 388				
American	78.34	81.46	− 2.15	.
Emerging Mkts	77.43	80.65	− 0.69	0.05
Europlus	170.70	177.84	− 2.40	.
Extra Income #	54.08	56.91†	− 0.99	5.24
Far East Emg Eqn	114.89	120.40	+ 1.22	0.70
Fixed Interest #	28.87	27.54†	.	.
Fixed Inv Yld #	165.72	173.07	− 1.08	9.83
Japan	169.07	175.69†	− 6.89	.
Latin American	79.36	83.37†	− 1.34	.
Pacific	75.31	79.06	− 0.30	0.32
Property	84.49	88.70	− 2.40	1.78
UK Emerging Cos	68.32	73.83	+ 0.18	0.76
UK Growth	65.12	67.82	− 2.76	1.28
Aber World Port #	80.53	85.28	− 1.93	2.52
Ethical	63.08	67.22	− 0.34	1.50
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.30	50.30†	+ 0.08	7.03
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2446.00	2552.00	+11.00	.
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5858				
Wealth Property #	108.50	115.40		4.92
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	103.26	108.56†	− 2.60	1.91
Income Builder Inc	91.50	97.34	− 1.91	3.61
For Alfd Dunbar see Throgmorton				
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01293 526 911				
Celestial Dist Pens	134.20	139.40		.
Foundtn Pers Pens	79.73	82.83		.
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 222 4242				
America	454.30	483.30†	− 3.20	.
Bond	124.30	130.70	+ 0.20	6.43
Bnl Smlr Cos	113.90	121.20	− 0.60	1.50
Cmn & Gen #	66.74	71.00†	+ 0.54	5.44
Europe	354.80	377.30	−11.90	.
Euro Smlr Cos	132.40	141.00	− 1.20	0.31
Income Gwth	399.80	425.40†	− 2.80	4.00
Japan	307.70	326.10	−16.00	.
Latin American	118.20	125.70	− 2.00	.
Pacific	117.30	124.80	− 1.10	0.53
UK Smlr Cos	61.86	65.81	− 0.02	1.29
Japan Fd	566.80	577.00	−21.40	.
Mngd Fd	238.10	252.80	− 6.10	2.45
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 488 8673				
Brit & Overs	439.10	464.40	− 5.50	0.76
Capital Gwth	158.10	167.20	− 3.20	2.50
Whole Opps	248.30	262.70	− 1.10	0.83
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 522 4000				
Balanced Trusts				
Gwth & Inc Inc	501.30	533.30	− 10.60	1.57
European Bd Inc	99.52	102.10	+ 0.50	5.96
Exempt	99.69	106.00	− 2.30	2.16
500	503.36	541.20†	− 0.60	2.01
General	385.10	409.70	− 7.80	1.69
Property	263.20	282.40		5.80
Trustee	270.30	287.50	− 5.90	1.65
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	101.10	101.10	+ 0.10	6.34
Distribution #	123.00	123.69†	− 1.80	5.35
Extra Income #	164.00	175.60	− 3.80	4.29
Gilt & Fixed Int	61.04	62.93†	+ 0.18	7.40
Income #	674.70	719.70†	− 12.20	4.23
Income Builder #	77.24	82.21†	− 1.26	4.86
Intl Income	83.41	88.73	− 1.99	1.41
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	169.60	180.40†	− 4.00	1.48
FTSE 100	124.60	132.20	− 3.50	1.85
Smlr Cos Inc	58.22	63.18†	+ 0.32	2.22
UK Growth	480.60	522.10	−11.00	1.68
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	225.70	240.30	− 6.90	0.11
F East Gwth Acc	284.60	303.10	− 0.10	0.33
Far East Gwth	166.86	176.50	− 0.10	0.33
Euro Gwth Inc	228.70	242.00†	− 5.80	0.38
-do- Accum	260.50	285.10	− 6.20	0.38
Japan	118.40	125.30	− 4.00	.
Japan Inc	119.70	126.60	− 4.30	.
Japan Spec Sits	55.89	59.23	− 2.32	.
Worldwide	219.80	234.10	− 5.80	0.57
BARING FUND MANGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	174.20	183.90	− 5.70	.
Amer Smlr Cos	184.10	195.10	+ 0.80	.
Eastern	276.30	296.50	− 0.90	0.30
Equity Income #	116.10	123.00	− 2.50	4.00
European Growth	462.60	491.50	− 6.50	0.80
Europe	445.90	473.90	+ 0.10	0.80
German Growth	106.30	114.90	− 2.50	0.50
Global Bond	73.02	76.79	+ 0.12	4.60
Global Growth	170.00	181.20	− 4.00	0.46
Japan Growth	156.20	165.40	− 6.40	.
Japan Smlrcos	107.00	113.20	− 3.00	.
Latin Trust	50.13	54.64	− 0.05	.
Portfolio	167.50	178.40†	− 3.00	2.00
-do- Accum	323.30	344.50	− 6.00	2.00
UK Growth	123.70	132.50	− 2.80	3.00
UK Smaller Cos	112.00	121.50	+ 1.70	1.90
Select Managers	96.94	103.80	− 1.20	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3000				
Intl Glob Port Inc	105.10	111.80†	− 4.10	.
Special Oppor Inc	74.94	79.72†	− 0.13	.
BRITANNIA FUND MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	174.90	182.18	− 5.27	1.10
-do- Accum	204.68	213.21	− 6.17	1.10
Smaller Cos	174.72	182.00	− 1.24	0.39
High Yield #	66.19	68.94	− 0.73	3.74
American Gth Inc	135.66	141.31†	− 2.21	.
European Growth	198.01	206.26†	− 4.47	.
-do- Accum	202.24	210.67	− 4.57	.
Mngd Portfo Inc	62.99	65.61	− 0.39	1.27
-do- Accum	65.79	68.45	− 0.41	1.27
Int Spec Opps	210.94	219.72	+ 3.70	.
Pacific Gwth	172.15	179.32	+ 10.11	.
UK General #	117.83	122.74	− 3.42	2.83
-do- Accum #	129.77	135.18	− 3.76	2.83
Japan	49.06	51.10†	− 1.85	.
GLR & Fixed Int #	104.32	108.11†	+ 0.18	7.61
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7215				
Short Dated Gilt	65.54	66.36	+ 0.08	6.30
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5050				
Emerge	203.80	214.50	− 3.10	1.60
Uk Growth	252.20	265.50†	− 6.20	1.70
Uk Income	174.50	183.80	− 2.40	3.87
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01707 822 100				
Can Gen Fxd	266.90	282.90†	− 8.10	1.40
-do- Income Fxd	147.50	156.30	− 3.30	3.20
-do- Accum	480.80	520.30	−10.80	3.20
Gilt & Fixed Int	41.93	44.05†	− 0.11	6.17
Growth Units	336.50	327.70†	− 7.90	1.79
Bond	181.00	190.30†	+ 0.40	6.30
Intl Growth	249.90	266.00	− 6.20	0.17
North American	315.30	334.20†	− 8.60	.
Far East	276.60	295.80	− 1.10	0.65
UK Smaller Cos	244.60	261.60	− 6.00	1.09
European	112.30	119.50	− 2.30	0.42
Japanese Growth	36.95	39.16	− 2.04	.
High Income	260.80	278.60	− 6.40	3.65
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Enq 0161 831 7433 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	279.90	296.20†	− 4.20	.
European Inc	117.30	124.60†	− 1.70	0.10
Smaller Cos (4-1)	108.50	115.50†	+ 0.20	1.78
Growth	643.20	684.30†	− 8.10	1.89
Income & Growth #	536.60	570.90†	−10.30	4.49
-do- Accum #	838.20	891.30	−16.00	4.49
Japan & Gen	58.21	61.64	− 2.51	.
Hallmark Gwth	1417.00	1477.00	− 34.00	1.56
-do- Accum	1777.00	1845.00	− 43.00	1.56
Special Sit	149.10	158.70	− 2.00	1.85
High Yield	1748.00	1803.00	− 32.00	3.97
CADENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 626 0700				
Cadenove Portfolio	112.34	119.68	− 1.48	2.30
American Portfolio	155.69	165.12	− 5.97	0.70
European Portfolio	159.25	169.62	− 3.98	0.40
High Income	54.05	58.69†	− 0.17	8.67
Japanese Portfolio	57.54	61.01†	− 1.35	.
Pacific Portfolio	153.23	164.08	− 0.60	0.77
UK Equity	170.31	117.84	− 2.46	2.78
UK Equity & Bd	64.38	68.24	− 0.77	5.13
UK Smlr Cos	52.51	56.17†	− 0.14	1.68
CBF CHURCH OF ENGLAND FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fd Inc	914.70	978.60	+31.53	3.74
Inv Fd Acc	935.66	949.90	+32.25	.
Fxd Int Sec Inc	159.92	160.14	+ 1.17	8.93
Fxd Int Sec Acc	166.74	167.40	+ 1.23	.
CCF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	899.20	912.98	+20.05	3.81
Investment Acc	4293.28	4348.12	−95.44	.
Fixed Int Inc	131.62	132.14	+ 0.86	8.78
Fixed Int Acc	255.89	256.91	+ 1.67	.
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 556 8000				
Beckman Ind	92.47	97.29	+ 0.03	5.15
Tech Bio-Tech	43.10	46.56	+ 0.39	.
Aldrin Ethical Fxd	213.47	224.19	+ 0.58	0.41
City Fin Assets	87.18	91.55	+ 1.63	1.61
City Fin Intl	97.69	102.58	+ 1.48	0.06
Finans Fin Cap	347.91	370.12	+ 7.40	1.68
Berkley Wdd Bdk	158.08	168.41†	+10.32	.
State Utilities	76.25	77.91	− 1.01	4.47
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	63.86	67.76	− 1.24	.
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Gwth	98.64	104.94	− 1.43	.
Dragon Growth	67.53	72.22	+0.12	0.56
Europ High Inc	106.62	112.82†	− 0.61	1.67
-do- Accum	160.05	169.36	− 4.51	3.43
Extra Income Inc	27.98	29.45	+ 0.07	8.81
Extra Income Acc	32.10	33.79	+ 0.08	8.61
European Gwth	70.07	73.80	− 2.55	0.14
Fundpower	35.09	37.52	− 0.24	.
General Equity	125.24	132.18	− 2.89	2.44
Japan Growth	38.94	42.49	− 1.92	.
Pacifapan Gwth	74.46	78.79	− 1.74	1.84
Pref Sm Cos Inc	40.72	43.09	+ 0.07	1.43
-do- Accum	43.61	46.15	+ 0.07	1.43
Retirement Inc #	31.90	33.94	− 0.98	5.35
Special Sits	52.63	56.50	− 0.65	2.90
UK & Overseas	69.55	73.80	− 1.63	0.50
COLONIAL UNIT TRUSTS (J/Q) LTD				
01634 896 000				
Balanced	78.50	81.77†	− 1.02	3.78
Capital	95.95	99.94†	− 2.05	2.20
High Income	54.57	58.84†	+ 0.14	6.51
Top 50	68.48	71.33†	− 1.52	2.26
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	213.97	222.91	− 3.12	4.33
Long Gilt	47.74	49.71	+ 0.23	9.65
Monthly Inc Plus	54.66	56.94	+ 0.18	7.67
Prylexance Share	52.38	54.57	+ 0.20	7.14
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	154.97	161.44	− 1.91	5.55
Managed Fund	84.97	88.52	− 1.60	2.56
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	52.01	54.18	+ 0.02	1.57
-do- Accum	62.20	64.80	+ 0.03	1.57
UK & General	117.65	122.57	− 1.32	2.29
-do- Accum	155.98	162.50	− 1.74	2.29
UK Growth	230.22	239.84	− 5.24	1.64
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	258.87	269.69	− 7.74	0.50
Far Eastern Gwth	129.99	133.34	− 1.35	0.21
Global Bond	75.07	78.21	− 0.16	6.57
Japan Growth	101.53	105.77	− 4.58	.
North Amer Gwth	298.48	310.95	− 9.16	.
Oriental Growth	81.48	84.88	+ 0.54	0.58
Worldwide Growth	81.99	85.38	− 2.23	0.30
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.39	93.39	+ 0.09	6.03
Homebuyer Fund	102.28	106.69	− 2.80	2.02
Chelfer Fund	170.71	181.51†	− 4.96	1.74
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 407 5986				
Combined Ut	39.26	41.98†	− 0.28	2.95
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 526 358				
Growth	195.90	208.40	− 2.80	1.72
Income	81.93	87.18†	− 1.68	3.95
European	91.74	97.60	− 2.59	0.14
Recovery	187.20	199.10	+ 0.40	2.07
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	1149.00	1168.30	.	3.03
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 660 370				
European Inc	82.81	87.93†	− 2.36	0.35
Fellowship Tst	115.60	122.90	− 0.50	1.11
Income #	322.20	342.70	− 5.40	4.01
-do- Accum #	876.10	932.00	−14.80	4.01
Smaller Cos	232.30	244.90	− 0.30	0.75
-do- Accum	297.70	326.00	− 6.30	0.75
Gth Portfolio	111.20	118.20†	− 1.90	1.34
High Inc Port #	94.16	100.10†	− 1.90	4.17
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 470 1634				
Global Sm Cos	1936.60	1958.30	+12.00	0.53
UK Small Cos	2261.20	2348.90	+ 7.80	2.92
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	247.50	255.10	+ 3.90	.
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	201.30	214.10	− 6.00	1.51
UK High Inc Inc	215.80	229.50	− 4.70	3.10
-do- Accum	300.60	320.00	− 6.40	3.10
UK Prof & F I Inc	82.72	88.59	+ 0.15	5.55
Eurotrust Opps	120.70	128.40	− 2.10	0.78
UK Stock Cos	72.95	77.60†	− 0.05	0.87
Extra Income Inc	52.44	55.76†	+ 0.15	6.06
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
Convertibles #	24.01	25.51†	− 0.10	1.40
Enterprise	119.50	126.70	.	1.97
Equity Income #	154.00	174.30†	− 4.00	3.67
European	74.45	78.83	− 2.32	.
Financial	67.86	72.12†	− 2.42	1.39
Growth & Inc #	334.90	355.80†	− 7.40	2.46
High Dist #	209.50	223.00	− 4.80	3.81
International	453.90	482.30	−10.20†	0.27
Int Cap Inc	123.60	131.90	− 3.10	2.05
Latin American	41.01	43.57†	− 1.28	.
Mgd Gwth Port	97.42	101.80	+ 1.50	4.91
Pacific	95.16	98.50	+ 0.14	.
Prof High Inc	24.38	25.80	+ 0.04	6.95
Tokyo	181.00	191.20†	− 6.10	.
UK Smaller Cos	246.30	261.70	− 0.30	1.15
Japan Sm Cos	301.50	318.90	−10.00	.
Nth Amer	536.70	567.70	−16.20	0.52
UK Inc & Gth	302.40	320.00	− 7.70	2.30
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
Gilt Director Dlgs	124.29	132.37	+ 0.80	0.97
Growth Acc	314.80	334.96	+ 4.11	0.20
Income	617.06	659.11†	.	5.94
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	254.30	270.50	− 1.70	0.92
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	109.93	115.72	− 4.02	1.45
Ethical Tst	54.61	57.48	− 1.12	0.82
Far Eastern	288.71	303.90	− 5.73	1.56
High Income	162.95	171.53	− 3.06	4.38
Intl Index Trckng	62.60	65.89†	− 1.89	2.86
Intl Growth	154.08	162.19	− 3.34	1.20
North American	188.67	198.60†	− 7.19	1.50
Pelican	171.31	180.33	− 4.83	2.58
Smaller Cos	72.42	76.23	− 0.12	2.44
Special Sits	88.81	94.54†	− 3.01	3.31
Tst of Inv Tsts	237.72	250.23†	− 0.56	1.42
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	122.45	129.92	− 0.26	.
Fd of Inv Tsts	58.03	61.57	− 0.19	0.47
High Income #	40.88	43.36	− 0.08	11.53
Wtr & Gt Opps	51.72	54.61†	− 0.32	.
Zero Preference	47.76	50.57	+ 0.01	.
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Assist Tst	112.70	119.80	− 2.10	2.17
United Charities	333.50	354.70	− 4.80	1.65
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callover: Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Extra Income	52.99	56.21	+ 0.15	5.26
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00	.	6.40
Bond Funds				
Intl Bond	26.84	27.82	− 0.10	5.25
Strategic Inc	29.03	30.35	− 0.15	5.60
Income Funds				
High Income	29.91	31.41	− 0.33	4.91
Income Plus	198.10	188.20†	− 3.90	3.56
European Income	58.58	63.26†	− 1.15	2.15
Megabuilder Gwth	36.73	38.99†	− 1.40	2.26
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	41.53	44.30	+ 0.31	.
American	424.70	451.30	− 1.40	.
Amer Spec Sits	252.70	269.10	− 1.60	.
Japan Smaller Cos	23.01	24.46	− 1.12	.
European	286.70	304.90	− 3.00	0.44
European Opps	103.60	110.20	− 2.30	0.51
Global Pstr	39.40	40.63	− 0.77	0.49
UK Growth	144.30	153.40†	− 2.80	1.27
Growth & Inc	210.10	223.40	− 6.60	1.14
Intl PEP	58.09	61.77	− 1.78	1.12
Japan Spec Sits	72.97	77.35	− 3.67	.
Japan	173.20	183.40	− 7.10	.
Managed Intl	434.00	459.50	− 12.70	0.58
Worldwide Plus	76.72	77.77	− 1.05	0.64
Recovery	68.08	72.39	− 0.19	1.89
South E Asia	196.40	211.60	− 2.70	0.91
Special Sits	832.00	884.70†	− 3.10	0.50
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Unit	139.96	139.96	+ 0.12	6.40
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	172.60	174.80†	+ 1.20	1.58
Finchury Pff Inc #	103.60	104.50†	− 0.50	6.32
Cap Profile	188.40	190.70	− 1.30	0.09
General Opps	163.10	164.40	− 0.30	3.03
Growth Inc	43.80	44.25	− 1.39	1.67
Private Portfolio	566.80	573.90†	+ 3.20	1.08
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Dlg 01277 690 386 Admin/Vol 01277 690 350				
Euro Smlr Cos	172.20	183.60	− 1.70	.
High Income	22.98	24.45	− 0.45	9.20
Japan Smlr Cos	14.35	15.28	− 0.54	.
US Smaller Cos	528.70	561.10	+ 1.29	.
FRANKLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 300 0500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	101.50	107.60	− 1.40	.
-do- Accum	101.50	107.60	− 1.40	.
Amer Smlr Cos	811.90	864.50†	+ 2.80	.
-do- Accum	829.40	882.70†	+ 3.90	.
Capital Tst	401.90	427.60	+ 5.70	1.26
-do- Accum	583.60	631.50	− 7.40	1.26
Cont Smlr Cos	66.97	71.41	− 0.56	0.63
-do- Accum	71.86	76.52	− 0.81	1.02
Convertible	146.40	155.70	+ 2.20	5.23
-do- Accum	331.40	352.40	+ 4.90	5.23
Emerging Markets	79.64	85.20	+ 0.62	0.54
-do- Accum	80.48	85.99	+ 0.63	0.54
European	182.90	193.70	− 5.70	0.40
-do- Accum	194.50	205.90	− 5.90	0.40
Extra Income	451.10	480.50†	− 9.40	4.02
-do- Accum	744.70	791.70†	−15.30	4.02
Financial	226.60	241.10	− 2.20	0.94
-do- Accum	242.80	258.30	− 2.60	0.94
Gilt Tract	64.23	66.24	+ 0.11	7.04
-do- Accum	102.90	106.10	+ 0.20	7.04
Health Fund Inc	294.60	314.70	+ 7.60	.
-do- Accum	294.60	314.70	+ 1.00	.
Income & Growth	263.70	280.50	− 8.50	2.54
-do- Accum	431.40	458.90	−10.70	3.54
Intl Growth	477.30	508.30	− 10.40	.
-do- Accum	550.00	584.30	−11.60	.
Japan & Gen	149.40	158.50	− 5.70	.
-do- Accum	150.90	160.10	− 5.80	.
Monthly Inc #	230.10	244.80†	− 4.60	4.26
-do- Accum #	238.00	253.20†	− 3.90	4.26
Managed Port Inc	133.30	140.30	− 4.20	1.28
-do- Accum	146.50	154.20	− 4.70	1.28
Quarterly Income #	61.85	65.12†	− 1.16	5.07
-do- Accum #	74.34	78.28†	− 1.39	5.07
Recovery	321.40	315.60†	− 1.20	.
-do- Accum	414.60	443.00†	− 7.10	.
UK Growth	75.53	80.35	− 1.72	1.79
-do- Accum	83.44	88.77	− 1.91	1.79
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01732 715835 Enq 01732 715834				
FP American	76.95	81.63	− 2.95	.
FP Am Smlr Cos	235.30	250.90	− 2.30	.
FP Asian Growth	288.00	295.80	− 2.50	.
FP Australian	463.30	434.40†	− 7.10	.
FP Equity Dist	534.90	570.50	−12.40	2.07
-do- Accum	1207.00	1287.00	−28.00	2.07
FP Euro Gth	364.90	387.20	− 8.00	.
-do- Accum	399.80	426.40	− 8.70	.
FP Intl Bond	57.21	60.59†	− 0.29	6.02
FP Intl Gth Dist	43.49	46.38	− 1.10	0.02
-do- Accum	63.87	68.12	− 1.62	0.02
FP Pac Basin Acc	216.30	231.20	− 3.70	.
FP Income #	66.97	71.43	− 1.33	4.47
-do- Accum #	243.00	259.30	− 4.80	4.47
FP Jap Smlr Cos	210.60	224.80	− 8.00	.
FP Monthly Dist #	62.00	67.40†	− 0.92	4.82
FP Stby Deposit	101.00	101.00	+ 0.20	6.27
FP Tokyo	74.10	79.04	− 2.64	.
FP UK Focus	50.05	53.38	− 1.27	1.54
FP UK Growth	236.20	250.80	− 9.80	1.68
-do- Accum	484.20	516.40	−11.90	1.68
Shareschip Dist	467.80	498.10	− 0.10	1.50
-do- Accum	594.00	633.60	− 0.20	1.50
Shareschip Inc Dist #	78.46	83.68†	+ 0.03	5.03
-do- Accum #	111.99	119.30	+ 1.20	5.03
N Am Stchp Dist	167.50	178.40	− 0.50	.
-do- Accum	180.30	192.00	− 0.60	.
FP Extract Tract				
Incl Ethical In #	119.30	119.80	− 1.60	2.90
Incl Ethical Ac #	120.50	121.10	− 1.60	2.90
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	146.10	155.

Equities end on weak note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+ / -	Yld %	P/E
490	407½	Allied Domecq	460½		3.9	15.8
605	385	Bolney (WP)	400		4.5	11.2
75¼	49	Burn Stewart	46½		9.1	11.6
1040	865	Diageo A	975		7.7	14.1
631	429½	Grand Met	524½	+ 1	3.3	16.5
627	424	Guinness	554½	- 1	3.6	15.5
380	297½	Highland Dist	297½		3.5	13.9
336	213	Matthew Clark	218½	- 2	1.7	6.5
109½	52½	Mondial Wi	60½			
2009½	1462½	SA Breweries	1762½	- 21½	2.5	17.4

BANKS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+ / -	Yld %	P/E
1521½	918½	ABN AMRO	1293½		2.7	16.1
971	710	Abbey Nat	847½	- 7½	5.1	12.5
863½	532½	Alliance & Leicr	653	- 4½	3.7	12.6
563	388½	Allied Irish	529½	- 4	4.2	12.0
480½	363½	Abt Nat 2	36[illegible]	- 2½	4.[illegible]	
4671½	2875	Bank America	4275	+ 18½		
452	291½	Bank Scotland	429		2.4	13.0
1476½	978½	Barclays	1425½	+ 4½	4.5	13.0
764	517½	Bk of Ireland	721	- 4½	2.5	19.9
6828½	5006½	Cscorp	5905½	154		
1759½	1268½	Commerzbk	1703½		2.9	
862½	559½	Dk Ichi Kan Y	630½	- 2½	0.6	
4351½	2709½	Dresdner Bk	3721½	- 5½	1.1	
1300	759½	Espirito Santo	1262½	- 14½	2.3	
947½	594½	Fuji Bank Y	716½	- 4½	0.6	
2369½	1777½	HSBC	1935½	- 11½	3.6	15.2
2256½	1241	HSBC Hkt	1835	- 9½	3.1	14.9
753	636½	Halifax	717	- 9½	3.6	14.4
610	485½	Inch Perry	570	- 10	2.7	16.8
783½	424	Lloyds TSB	715	- 7½	3.7	16.6
917½	669½	Nat Aust Bk	892	- 11½	2.1	14.4
896½	635½	Nat Westr	834½	- 4½	4.5	17.3
665	508	Rpl Bk Scot	616	- 1	4.9	17.1
1093½	681	Stand Chartr	730	- 1	4.9	17.2
2164½	1364½	Wells Fargo	1364½		3.0	
397½	315½	Westpac	362½	- 6	4.1	
373½	284	Woolwich	311½	- 3½	3.2	12.4

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+ / -	Yld %	P/E
878½	717½	Bass	827½	- 4	3.9	15.5
66½	43½	Bss for the Bdrt	54½	- 4	2.7	11.5
305	142½	Burton'd Tea	155½	- 4	4.9	12.3
1594½	1217½	City Centre Rest	1242		1.4	14.7
744½	575½	Compass Gp	649	- 6	2.8	19.5
305	260	Dchnge P A	295	- 1½	4.2	22.7
352½	321	Enterprise Inns	336½		2.4	15.1
485	412	Fuller Sm A	411½		3.0	14.4
586	422½	Grnalds Gp	461½	- 1	4.3	11.1
770	643	Greene King	737½		3.7	14.1
297½	152½	Grosvnor Inns	192			
395	219½	Group Chez Gr	235½		7.4	
296½	201	Hdng Hurdle	221	- 2	5.2	11.8
2650	2075	Hall J	2557		2.1	17.1
72	60	Im Brewerys	67	- 2	0.9	14
457	337	Mansfield	439		0.9	14.2
315½	252	Minton Thmp	295		2.4	
615	542½	MoLand	555		4.1	
266½	140	Mid Eng Pub	255		1.0	23.4
47	26½	Paramount	28			
620½	525½	Pubmasters	621	- 2	2.5	4.9
437½	332½	Ratcliffe (H)	355	- 1	1.1	21.2
376½	276½	Regent Inns	330½	- 1	1.5	12.9
130	102½	SFI	129		3.1	10.4
708½	627	Scot & New	726	- 4	3.6	15.2
306	248½	Vaux Group	281½	- 3½	3.9	14.2
1574	1105	Wetherspoon JD	1522½		0.9	
865	738½	Whitbread	781	- 2	2.8	12.4
706½	581	Workmngtn D	556½		2.8	12.4
377	279½	Yates Bros	372½		2.0	29.8
702½	615	Young &	691½		2.7	21.6

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+ / -	Yld %	P/E
32½	15½	AAF Inc	19			
205	170	Abbey	205		3.7	
357½	237½	Allen	357½		2.6	21.4
168½	90½	Amec	129½		3.1	
517	237	Amey	462	- 5	2.8	16.3
665	465	Andrews Sykes	605	- 21	1.9	17.7
324½	222½	Ashtead	289½	- 1	1.6	20.0
48½	29½	Avonskin	43		4.5	9.7
29½	24½	Bamyt	39½		2.7	25.6
64½	49½	Barcom	59		2.8	18.1
254½	206	Barratt Dev	261	- 1	2.1	11.5
210	154½	Beazer	175	- 1	4.4	13.5
381½	299½	Bellway	363½		2.9	16.2
22	16½	Bellwinch	18	- 1½		11.9
52½	34½	Bdm Bailey	45	- 4	4.4	14.3
769½	606	Berkeley Gp	726½	- 5	1.6	15.3
172	142	Best Bros	148½	- 1	4.8	5.0
355	230	Bmt (Henry)	355		2.8	14.3
130½	87½	Brandon Hire	130½		3.0	16.0
35½	27½	Brdmoors Gp	33½		1.9	
72½	62½	Br Bldg & Eng	72½			
159	120½	Bryant	121	- ½	5.4	12.6
125½	99½	CALA	109½		4.5	
6½	2½	Campbell & Arm	6			
63½	53½	Clarke Tr	61½		8.1	9.6
46	46	Cassann#	46			
105	71	Countryside	84	- ½	5.3	14.5
108½	80½	Crest Nicholson	105		3.8	12.9
102½	67½	Curzons	91½		5.6	10.6
177½	147½	Eve Group	164		3.4	19.4
14	15½	Galliford	21		6.0	23.0
93½	65½	Glanton (MJ)	91½		2.2	16.6
320	272½	Hardcastle Exec	282	+ 2	1.9	19.6
167½	123	Hawdon-Stuart	167		2.4	27.2
21½	16½	Howard Hldgs	18		5.6	19.3
318	130½	James	269	- ½	1.9	22.1
272½	182½	Kellert	215	- 1½	2.8	14.9
250½	189½	Kier	205½		4.0	12.3
369½	279	Lang (J)	370		3.7	34.1
130½	110½	Lang 6.4% Cr Pf	126½		6.5	
14½	9	Lovell (YJ)	11½			
210½	162½	Marshalls (J)	185½		3.9	13.6
167½	112½	McAlpine (A)	139½	+ 1	6.3	70.0
136½	95½	McCarthy & S	135½	- ½	2.2	16.2
75	53½	McKinney	65			
235½	158½	Morgan Sndall	176½		3.2	12.0
326½	234½	Morrison Const	297½		2.2	18.6
144	109½	Mowlem (J)	113		3.3	12.4
266	208	Persimmon	250½		5.3	11.7
102½	48	Peterhouse	101½ +	1½	4.8	22.9
125	100	Pochin	100		3.1	10.4
124½	97½	Prowting	119½		4.3	19.0
179½	145½	Redrow	169		2.5	17.3
330	256	Sheriff Hldgs	327		2.8	28.0
352½	267½	Spandex	267½		1.5	13.7
103	76	Sean Hill	88		3.6	
153½	115	Tay Homes	145½		6.1	31.5
215	153	Taylor Woodrow	185½	- ½	2.5	16.5
767½	512½	Tilbury Douglas	567½	- 2½	4.9	15.2
27½	13½	Try Group	23½			13.8
86	58½	Wimpey(J)	71		7.1	
152½	112	Wimpeys	140½		4.2	19.8
74½	36½	Ward Hldgs	52½			
271	224½	Westbury	256½	- 1	3.2	14.8
65½	45½	White Young Gn	59½		6.3	18.8
12	7½	Wiggins	9½			
191	147½	Wilson (C)	169	- 2	3.7	17.0
563½	471½	Wilson Bowden	563	- ½	2.5	14.7
155	120	Wimpey S	121½	- 2	5.8	12.8

BUILDING MATERIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+ / -	Yld %	P/E
56	33	Aggregate Inds	54½		4.7	24.0
368	256½	BPB	360		2.6	15.9
110½	91½	Baggeridge Brk	98½		4.0	24.3
50	27½	Blackley	50			
452	351	Blue Circle	375½	- 4	4.3	15.5
91½	78½	Brendon PLC	82½		7.3	12.7
152½	119	Br Dredging	146½	- 1	5.0	12.0
70½	58½	CRH	67½	- 7½	1.5	16.7
59½	42½	Caskwood Rby	44½		3.0	2.3
192½	162½	Cape	164½		4.6	
273	187	Caradon	191	- ½	6.3	9.3
133½	102	Caradon pl	104	- 1	6.7	
69½	50	Chesham Gtn	67½		6.5	6.7
272½	212½	Dycon (AB)†	245		2.9	14.2
145	122	Dycon A'†	141		5.1	8.2
4	2½	Ecoscope	3½ +	½		
290	215	Epwin	230		5.3	13.2
101½	83½	Gibbs & Dandy	93½		5.2	9.8
148	119	Graham Gp	145 +	5	5.7	20.6
365½	187½	Halstead (J)	205		5.8	9.4
334½	271½	Hanson	308	- 2½	5.0	12.1
287½	206½	Hepworth	210		6.8	11.9
106½	72½	Howeldorf	92½		6.8	9.7
288	190½	Heywd Wmnt	208½ +	2½	6.3	8.6
75½	60	Hrbnck	69	- ½	4.1	22.6
530	315	Johnston	325		4.6	8.8
87½	62½	Lilleshall	79½		8.2	9.5
137	103½	Marley†	110½	- 1	5.2	10.8
160½	119½	Marshalls†	140½		4.6	21.4
457½	361½	Meyer Int	425	- 2	3.5	18.3
95½	65½	Norcros	69½		3.6	17.1
158	110	Pilkington	144½ +	1	4.3	17.1
264½	194½	Polypipe	211½	- 1	2.0	15.7
1147½	878½	RMC Gp	1002	- 8	3.3	14.7
381½	282½	Redland	298	- 1	7.2	14.7
159½	65	Reeds	135½		4.2	15.8
114½	78½	Rutbrwd	84½		2.8	21.4
128½	91½	Rugby Group	117½		3.8	20.2
113	92½	Russell (A)	113		4.2	16.5
346½	241½	SIG	340 +	½	2.6	18.5
3½	1½	SNP	2½		3.1	17.1
237½	211½	Sharpe & Fisher	238½			
20½	9½	Spring Ram	10½			
167½	159½	Steetley Hldgs	160½		5.6	11.6
137½	92½	Tarmac	120		5.8	10.4
140	100	Tarmac	110		5.8	10.4
545	436½	Travis Perkins	498		2.5	20.7
80½	34½	Tudor	55		6.2	10.7
514	422½	Wadesley	473 +	1½	2.8	15.7

DISTRIBUTORS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+ / -	Yld %	P/E
202½	149½	Action Gp Spts	167½ +	2½	0.7	18.2
330	275	Adam & Harvey	387½ +	2½	7.0	5.7
21½	8½	Alexanders	10½		1.2	
90	51½	Applegarth†	64 +	1½	7.0	
3½	1½	Ass Br Eng	2			
500	436	BSS Group	587½		4.4	19.5
16½	13½	Bearing Power	15			
39½	34½	Bagod A†	37½		3.0	7.4
650	530	Bremner	600 +	5	3.4	14.3
27	13½	Bridgend Gp	18		5.0	8.9
119½	99½	Bnt Fittings	113½		4.7	11.3
360	300	Callyns	335			

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1997 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+ / -	Yld %	P/E
220½	167½	Tst Group	194	+ ½	2.6	20.5
140½	111½	Lucas Varity	133½		3.6	27.7
90	61	Cookson	63	- ½	5.0	8.7
59½	46	Cash (JE)	47		6.4	6.8
1.4½	1½	Dbg Motors	1½		3.9	7.2
1.4½	1½	Hldgs

RACING: GODOLPHIN-OWNED COLT PROVIDES GREATEST OBSTACLE TO DERBY RUNNER-UP IN SEASON'S FINAL CLASSIC AT DONCASTER

Stowaway to justify classic confidence

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A SEASON which started badly for the Godolphin team before normal service was resumed can end with a classic flourish this afternoon at Doncaster, where Stowaway is strongly fancied to win the Pertemps St Leger.

The significant turnaround in the fortunes of the Sheikh Mohammed-inspired operation means that the disappointments of the May meeting at York, which prompted the stable to shut up shop temporarily, are a distant memory. Boosted by the success of Swain in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, the old confidence has returned.

When Stowaway made his seasonal reappearance back in May he had avoided the malaise which was afflicting so many of his stablemates and ran sufficiently well to warrant thoughts about the Derby. However, he did not reappear until the end of July, when he put up a sparkling display to win the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood by three lengths and enter St Leger calculations.

Nonetheless, he needed to improve again when he met Silver Patriarch, runner-up to Benny The Dip in the Derby, in the group two Great Voltigeur Stakes at York 25 days ago. The necessary progress was forthcoming and the Slip Anchor colt showed admirable resolution to win by half a length. Silver Patriarch was short of peak fitness that day, having missed an important piece of work, and the John Dunlop team is more than hopeful that they can turn the tables, especially over this longer trip.

However, Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, is adamant Stowaway will confirm the form. "He's a better horse than he was at York. I am sure Silver Patriarch has improved but he will have to be much better if he is to turn the tables.

"Stowaway is on the upgrade and has passed every examination we have set him with flying colours. He has impressed us since York and at no stage do we feel we have got to the bottom of him. We don't think we have seen the best of him."

An impressive workout with Alhaarth and Tulipa has boosted Godolphin's faith that Stowaway can provide Frankie Dettori with his third successive St Leger success. "We don't harbour any doubts about him getting the trip. He gives the very strong impression a mile and threequarters will be within his compass."

Silver Patriarch, who won over ten furlongs as a two-year-old, will relish the step up in trip and is the strict form choice judged on his Epsom run, but in Stowaway and Vertical Speed he faces two lightly raced and most progressive individuals.

Vertical Speed's three successes have been achieved on soft ground and the form of his last victory was boosted by the hard-fought success of the runner-up, Book At Bedtime, in the Park Hill Stakes at Doncaster on Wednesday. André Fabre has said that the Bering colt is inferior, at this stage of his career, to Toulon, who won this race for him in 1991. However, he will be hard to keep out of the frame.

Of the outsiders, The Fly makes most appeal, having finished fifth in the Derby under a less than inspired ride. Barry Hills has his string in good order. Besiege, who made the frame in the Royal Lodge Stakes and Racing Post Trophy last year, is bred to be suited by this trip. Henry Cecil's runner has attracted significant ante-post support despite having not raced since finishing tailed off in the Classic Trial at Sandown in April, when he cracked a bone in a hind joint.

However, Stowaway, who is having only the fifth race of his career, is the most progressive runner in the field and is taken to justify the Godolphin confidence.

MARTIN LYNCH

Stowaway, right, and Silver Patriarch, renew last month's York rivalry in the St Leger today

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: STOWAWAY
(3.40 Doncaster)
Next best: Grand Chapeau
(3.20 Goodwood)

BIG RACE LINE-UP

3.40 PERTEMPS ST LEGER STAKES (Group I: 3-Y-O: £157,398. 1m 6f 132yd) (11 runners) — C4

401 (4) 1134-6 BESIEGE 140 (F,G) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 9-0 ... K Fallon 106
(b c Rainbow Quest - Armena) (Green, pink sash and cap, white sleeves)
402 (11) 23-212 HALTARRA 21 (G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 9-0 ... D Holland 103
(ch c Zilzal - Snow Bride) (Royal blue)
403 (6) 2-21342 PANAMA CITY 28 (F,S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 ... J Reid 115
(b c El Gran Senor - Obeah) (Emerald green, royal blue sleeves, white cap, emerald green spots)
404 (5) -601422 POSEIDON 46 (C,F,G) (Allevamento La Nuova Stama SRL) M Channon 9-0 . J Fortune 107
(b c Polar Falcon - Nastassia) (Dark blue, white stars, white sleeves, dark blue stars, white cap)
405 (10) 2-2221 SHAYA 31 (G) (H al-Maktoum) W Hern 9-0 ... R Hills 91
(ch c Nashwan - Gharami) (Royal blue, white epaulets, striped cap)
406 (9) 1-31252 SILVER PATRIARCH 25 (F,G,S) (P Winfield) J Dunlop 9-0 ... Pat Eddery 134
(gr c Saddlers' Hall - Early Rising) (Red and royal blue (quartered), white sleeves, black cap)
407 (1) 1-211 STOWAWAY 25 (F,G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 9-0 ... L Dettori 123
(b c Slip Anchor - On Credit) (Royal blue)
408 (3) 114-150 THE FLY 76 (G,S) (Mrs J Corbett) B Hills 9-0 ... M Hills 124
(gr c Pharly - Nelly Do Dai) (Royal blue, silver striped sleeves, blue and red hooped cap)
409 (8) 111 VERTICAL SPEED 49 (D,S) (D Wildenstein) A Fabre (Fr) 9-0 ... O Peslier 117
(ch c Bering - Victoire Bleue) (Royal blue, light blue cap)
410 (7) 1-52113 WINDSOR CASTLE 25 (B,F,S) (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 9-0 ... T Quinn 111
(b c Generous - One Way Street) (Dark green)
411 (2) 3132331 BOOK AT BEDTIME 3 (CD,F,S) (R Dyer) C Dyer 8-11 ... M Roberts 117
(b f Mtoto - Aloia) (Yellow, black disc, check cap)

BETTING: 5-2 Silver Patriarch, 11-4 Vertical Speed, 3-1 Stowaway, 10-1 Besiege, 12-1 Windsor Castle, 14-1 Panama City, 16-1 The Fly, 20-1 Poseidon, 25-1 Haltarra, Book At Bedtime, 33-1 Shaya

1996 SHANTOU 9-0 L Dettori (8-1) J Gosden 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Besiege 32l last of 6 to Voyagers Quest in 1¼m Sandown group III stakes (good to soft), previously 3l 4th to Medaaly in 1m group I stakes here (good). Haltarra neck 2nd to King Sound in 1m3½f Windsor stakes (good to firm). Panama City neck 2nd to Dushyantor in 1m5f Newbury group II stakes (good to firm). Shaya beat Basman 1½l in 1¼m Sandown maiden stakes (7yd, good). Stowaway beat Silver Patriarch (levels) ½l in 1¼m York group II stakes (good). The Fly 27l 9th to Desert King in 1½m Curragh Irish Derby (good to soft). Vertical Speed beat Book At Bedtime (levels) 4l in 1m7f Maisons-Laffitte group II stakes (soft). Windsor Castle 3¾l 3rd to Double Eclipse in 2m York group III stakes (good). Book At Bedtime beat The Faraway Tree neck in 1m6½f Doncaster group III stakes (good to firm)

STOWAWAY is progressing fast and can confirm York form with Silver Patriarch

Winfield goes for gold with Silver Patriarch

BY CHRIS MCGRATH

IT IS akin to striking oil in your back garden — which, to be fair, is how the opposition have always done things. The difference is that their idea of a back garden is a nice, medium-sized emirate with convenient access to the Persian Gulf. A gulf must be bridged today by Peter Winfield, aged 70, a chartered surveyor whose colours are carried in the Pertemps St Leger by Silver Patriarch. "I'm a real plutocrat these days," he says. "I have got two mares."

His status as a good sport, not to mention his blood pressure, was thoroughly explored at Epsom in June, when Silver Patriarch ran in the Derby. The grey, hopelessly unsuited by the course's turns and undulations, found himself last at Tattenham Corner, as Benny The Dip launched his dash for home. But he gathered momentum in the straight, surging through the whole field until a stride before the line, he got his nose ahead of Benny The Dip's. It was in front a stride after the post, too. At the line, however, the photo-finish revealed Benny The Dip flaring a decisive nostril.

Winfield was not merely stoic. He congratulated John Gosden, the winning trainer, warmly, feeling privileged to have participated in such high drama. "I don't want to be hypocritical," he said this week. "Of course I wanted the photo to show a different result, and you couldn't have contained me if it had. But once the verdict has been announced, you have to accept it graciously. All we can do is try our very hardest to win; and I have a feeling that Saturday is going to be his day. He'll love the extra distance, as he always seems to take a while to get to the pace. He likes to exercise his owner's heart."

That heart once reserved its most energetic pounding for football. But first his knees gave out — though not until he was 38 — and then his ears. "I'm not a prude. I served in the army, but the language and behaviour of the crowd at football matches a few years ago was unacceptable. I was able to watch Chelsea from the directors' box, but it got to the stage when I decided I was not going to subject myself, or my family, to that sort of thing every Saturday."

Winfield says that he is still fascinated by the "geometry" of football, indicative of the sternly analytical approach that, during half a century in business, took him from office boy to senior partner. Perhaps that is why he eventually switched his allegiance to racing. Few enterprises so defeat the rational. "Neither of the first two horses I bought, properly assisted by trainer and bloodstock agent,

Winfield: gracious

ever saw a racecourse. That was probably a blessing in disguise, albeit very well disguised at the time, as it taught me that I could expect nothing from racing. Everything since has been a wonderful bonus."

The first of those horses he had offered his wife as a Christmas present. She retorted: "If you want to buy a racehorse, buy it for yourself." Her husband has subsequently enjoyed a succession of useful horses out of the same mare, the appropriately named Early Rising. "I find the best part of the day to be between five and nine in the morning. That's when my brain is working properly. You're at peace with the world, you have no interruptions. And I like to learn something new every day."

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

2.00 Bintang
2.30 DURAID (nap)
3.05 Stanton Harcourt
3.40 Vertical Speed
4.15 Banningham Blade
4.45 Kuala Lipis
5.15 Premium Pursuit

Timekeeper's top rating: 5.15 INCHALONG.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.40 STOWAWAY (nap). 4.45 Oops Pettie.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM — DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

2.00 GREAT NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,640: 6f) (6 runners)

101 (4) 1 BINTANG 23 (D,G) (Al Muallim Partnership) P Cole 9-7 ... T Quinn 108
102 (1) 1 HARMONIC WAY 31 (D,F) (Mrs A Chandris) R Charlton 9-1 ... K Fallon 66+
103 (6) 2512 HAYIL 38 (BF,D,F) (H al-Maktoum) D Morley 9-1 ... R Hills 99
104 (5) 3123 FLAMING EMBER 99 (F) (B Schmidt-Bodner) B Meehan 8-13 ... Pat Eddery 98
105 (3) 46 SARA MOON CLASSIC 29 (Highgrove Developments) K McAuliffe 8-11 ... J F Egan 78
106 (2) SKY ROCKET (S Suhail) M Stoute 8-8 ... R Hills -
BETTING: 4-5 Bintang, 9-2 Hayil, 6-1 Flaming Ember, Harmonic Way, 10-1 Sky Rocket, 25-1 Sara Moon Classic.
1996: MAGICAL TIMES 9-1 K Fallon (7-2) R Boss 8 ran

2.30 ROTHMANS NORTH SOUTH SERIES SEMI-FINAL HANDICAP (£19,820: 1m md) (25 runners)

201 (25) D40004 HUNTERS OF BRORA 14 (BF,D,F,S) (R Gibbons) J Bethell 7-10-0 ... J Reid 93
202 (2) 3202605 KALA SUNRISE 35 (D,F,G) (A Needham) C Smith 4-10-0 ... J Tate 104
203 (13) 0546200 ALBERT THE BEAR 14 (D,F,S) (C Deuters) J Berry 4-9-12 ... T E Durcan (3) 89
204 (18) 2013101 QUEENS CONSUL 14 (D,F,G,S) (Miss H Dawson) B Rothwell 7-9-11 ... M Fenton 94
205 (12) -006600 MOVING ARROW 42 (D,F,G,S) (G Westgarth) Miss S Hall 6-9-8 ... D Holland 86
206 (22) 0108400 BAND ON THE RUN 14 (CD,F,G,S) (D Allen) B McMahon 10-9-7 ... T Quinn 82
207 (23) 3431020 PRIDE OF PENDLE 10 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs L Miller) M Wane 8-9-3 ... M Roberts 82
208 (3) 1120410 CASHMERE LADY 10 (D,F,G) (Mrs S Howell) J Eyre 5-9-3 ... O Pears 88
209 (17) 00-5208 SHINEROLLA 12 (B,D,F,G) (Mr & Mrs R Green) C Parker 5-9-3 ... Pat Eddery 83
210 (9) 4102440 DURAID 10 (D,G) (A Sudden) D Smith 5-9-2 ... C Lowther (5) 86
211 (6) 0030623 FOR YOUR EYES ONLY 10 (B,F,G) (R Oxley) T Easterby 3-9-1 ... L Dettori 93
212 (8) -000850 KNAVE'S ASH 14 (C,F,G) (H S L Ltd) D Nicholls 6-9-1 ... Alex Greaves 88
213 (1) 4604012 GULF SHAADI 14 (D,F) (Bobby Halfday Partnership) E Alston 5-9-0 ... K Fallon 94
214 (16) 4235604 GREY KINGDOM 9 (C,F,G,S) (M Brittain) M Brittain 6-9-0 ... D Mernagh (7) 89
215 (5) 2231120 EPIC STAND 19 (BF,D,F,G) (C Webster) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-13 ... J Fortune 79
216 (11) 0211224 NIGHT MIRAGE 8 (F,G) (Mr & Mrs G Middlebrook) M Johnston 3-8-11 ... J Weaver 83
217 (7) 4143400 SUEZ TORNADO 10 (D,G,S) (J Barry) E Alston 4-8-10 ... D Wright 77
218 (4) 0002200 NO CLICHES 19 (CD,F) (M Leatham) D Nicholls 4-8-10 ... S Sanders 78
219 (14) 4101211 HIGH SPIRITS 28 (B,D,F,S) (Mrs J Mountfield) T Easterby 3-8-10 ... L Charnock 89
220 (19) -422665 BOLLIN FRANK 19 (BF,D,F,S) (Sir Noel Westbrook) T Easterby 5-8-9 ... O Peslier 82
221 (20) 5422233 BARNBURGH BOY 11 (M Burke Developments) T Easterby 3-8-9 ... J Carroll 80
222 (21) 0453121 ANTARCTIC STORM 12 (D,F,G) (Northumbria Lecaire) R Fahey 4-8-6 ... F Norton 76
223 (24) 200-000 GLADYS ALTHORPE 50 (CD,F,G) (T Ely) J Eyre 4-8-5 ... T Williams 74
224 (10) 2460200 MOUNTGATE 19 (D,F,G) (J Coupland) M Bentley 5-8-4 ... A Culhane 73
225 (15) 3151623 BOWCLIFFE 28 (D,F,G) (P Danes) E Alston 6-8-3 ... J F Egan 77
BETTING: 6-1 For Your Eyes Only, High Spirits, 10-1 Hunters Of Brora, Epic Stand, 12-1 Queens Consul, Gulf Shaadi, Antarctic Storm, 14-1 others
1996: GLADYS ALTHORPE 3-8-0 A Mackay (12-1) J Eyre 25 ran

FORM FOCUS Restructure 2¾l 4th to Swiss Law in 7f Goodwood handicap (good). Russian Music 1l 3rd to Cencer Un in 1m York handicap (good) with Jo Mell (1lb better off) 14l 7th. Yorkie George 6l 17th to Danetime in 6f Goodwood handicap (good to firm). Stanton Harcourt beat Speculator neck in 1m Newmarket handicap (good to firm). Pomona beat Wishing Stone 2½l in 1m Windsor handicap (good to firm). Al Azhar 1¾l 2nd to Sweet Contralto in 1m1f Goodwood handicap (good to firm)

RESTRUCTURE will be well suited by this return to a mile

3.05 PORCELANOSA RATED HANDICAP (£13,534: 1m str) (11 runners) — C4

301 (2) 1010-20 YEAST 136 (D,F,S) (B Haggas) W Haggas 5-9-7 ... T Quinn 106
302 (6) -000324 RESTRUCTURE 21 (BF,D,F) (Pertemps Ltd) Mrs J Cecil 5-9-7 ... M Roberts 113
303 (8) 4530433 RUSSIAN MUSIC 23 (F) (Seventh Heaven Pnrs) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-2 ... K Fallon 114
304 (4) 0025310 YORKIE GEORGE 42 (G,S) (M Dawson) L Cumani 3-8-10 ... L Dettori 111
305 (5) 0001110 JO MELL 23 (BF,D,G,S) (C Newton Jnr Ltd) T Easterby 4-8-9 ... L Charnock +117
306 (11) 2-11051 STANTON HARCOURT 56 (D,F) (C Humphris) J Dunlop 3-8-8 ... Pat Eddery 113
307 (7) 4341300 PREMIER BAY 29 (B,S) (Prime Cartel) P Harris 3-8-8 ... J Reid 108
308 (9) -033051 POMONA 21 (D,F,G) (Skyline Racing Ltd) P Makin 4-8-7 ... J Fortune 111
309 (1) 2-00630 MUKADDAR 49 (G) (H al-Maktoum) C Benstead 3-8-6 ... R Hills 106
310 (3) 211-602 AL AZHAR 22 (CD,F,G) (Al Muallim Partnership) I Balding 3-8-2 ... C Rutter 111
311 (10) -100255 HAWAIT 23 (B,F) (M al-Maktoum) B Hills 3-8-2 ... P Fessey (3) 104
Long handicap: Pomona 8-3, Al Azhar 8-1, Hawait 7-11
BETTING: 7-2 Stanton Harcourt, 4-1 Yorkie George, 9-2 Restructure, 8-1 Russian Music, Jo Mell, 10-1 others
1996: DECORATED HERO 4-9-4 L Dettori (9-1) J Gosden 11 ran

FORM FOCUS Restructure 2¾l 4th to Swiss Law in 7f Goodwood handicap (good). Russian Music 1l 3rd to Cencer Un in 1m York handicap (good) with Jo Mell (1lb better off) 14l 7th. Yorkie George 6l 17th to Danetime in 6f Goodwood handicap (good to firm). Stanton Harcourt beat Speculator neck in 1m Newmarket handicap (good to firm). Pomona beat Wishing Stone 2½l in 1m Windsor handicap (good to firm). Al Azhar 1¾l 2nd to Sweet Contralto in 1m1f Goodwood handicap (good to firm)

RESTRUCTURE will be well suited by this return to a mile

3.40 PERTEMPS ST LEGER STAKES (Group I: 3-Y-O: £183,776: 1m 6f 132yd) (11 runners) — C4

RUNNERS AND RIDERS — SEE ABOVE

4.15 POLYPIPE PLC FLYING CHILDERS STAKES (Group II: 2-Y-O: £25,670: 5f) (7 runners) — C4

501 (1) 3051155 TIPPITT BOY 43 (D,F,G) (Highgrove Developments Ltd) K McAuliffe 9-3 ... J F Egan 93
502 (6) 116 TITANIC 24 (BF,CD,F) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-12 ... L Dettori 95
503 (7) 1633321 AURIGNY 28 (D,F) (J & S Kelly) S Dow 8-7 ... S Sanders 109
504 (3) 4463423 BANNINGHAM BLADE 14 (D,F,S) (Crown Select) K Ivory 8-7 ... K Fallon 90
505 (4) 1 BAYLEAF 57 (D,F) (Lady Rothschild) R Johnson Houghton 8-7 ... J Reid 92
506 (5) 1202 LAND OF DREAMS 19 (F) (M al-Maktoum) M Johnston 8-7 ... D Holland +115
507 (2) 2101220 MUGELLO 28 (BF,D,F) (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 8-7 ... M Hills 113
BETTING: 7-2 Mugello, 4-1 Land Of Dreams, 5-1 Titanic, Aurigny, Banningham Blade, 7-1 Tippitt Boy, Bayleaf
1996: EASYCALL 9-3 M Tebbutt (5-1) B Meehan 7 ran

FORM FOCUS Titanic 8½l 6th to Bay Prince in 5f York listed stakes (good). Aurigny beat Banningham Blade 3lb better off) neck in 5f Newbury listed stakes (good to firm) with Mugello (levels) 5¼l 8th. Bayleaf beat Cloudberry neck in 5f Newbury maiden stakes (good to firm). Land Of Dreams 2½l 2nd to Arkadian Hero in 6f Ripon listed stakes (good).

LAND OF DREAMS caught a tartar at Ripon and can go one better

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
S bin Suroor	8	29	27.6	M Hills	31	174	17.8
H Cecil	24	100	24.0	D Holland	11	62	17.7
J Gosden	31	147	21.1	L Dettori	38	216	17.6
J Dunlop	28	143	19.6	R Hills	14	89	15.7
P Cole	12	62	19.4	S Sanders	7	49	14.3

4.45 LADBROKE HANDICAP (£14,996: 1m 2f 60yd) (20 runners) — C4

601 (3) -514020 MY LEWICIA 23 (S) (G Knight) P Harris 4-10-0 ... Pat Eddery 93
602 (14) 0200045 KUALA LIPIS 24 (B,C,F) (H R H Sultan Ahmad Shah) P Cole 4-9-9 ... T Quinn 92
603 (18) 601-330 IHTIYATI 21 (F) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 3-9-6 ... R Hills 90
604 (19) 512-004 OOPS PETTIE 23 (CD,F) (Mrs D MacRae) Mrs J Cecil 4-9-6 ... J Carroll 87
605 (12) 1-65 ROYAL CRUSADE 31 (F) (Highclere Ltd) W Haggas 3-9-3 ... S Sanders 86+
606 (20) 3610540 DREAMS END 24 (D,G,S) (T Price) P Bowen 9-9-3 ... M Fenton 101
607 (13) 64313 KHAYALI 42 (D,F) (H al-Maktoum) D Morley 3-9-2 ... K Fallon 99
608 (6) 4-21519 SONG OF FREEDOM 14 (D,F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 3-9-2 ... L Dettori 93
609 (8) 021F040 WARRI 21 (D,G,S) (K MacPherson) P Calver 5-9-1 ... J Fortune 90
610 (16) 1141609 BREAK THE RULES 56 (CD,F,G,S) (A A Bloodstock) D Nicholls 5-9-1 Alex Greaves 86
611 (17) -601010 MATTIMEO 23 (D,F,G) (Mrs M Keogh) A Jarvis 4-9-0 ... C Lowther (5) 92
612 (15) 00-0150 FLYING NORTH 49 (D,F,G) (Dr G Meredith) Mrs M Reveley 4-8-13 A Culhane 90
613 (7) 0325515 CHIEF MONARCH 29 (F) (Miss N Jefford) B Smart 3-8-12 ... J Stack 88
614 (11) 3-00142 INFATUATION 43 (G) (Lady Katharine Phillips) Lady Herries 4-8-11 ... J Weaver 85
615 (1) 0130063 FAHS 19 (D,G) (City Industrial Supplies Ltd) R Akehurst 5-8-10 ... D Holland 91
616 (5) 2060351 EDAN HEIGHTS 4 (D,F,S) (T Mountain) S Dow 5-8-5 ... P Doe (7) 100
617 (4) 0200342 SHEER FACE 22 (F) (A de V Patrick) W Muir 3-8-5 ... J Reid 97
618 (2) 0000060 REBEL COUNTY 12 (D,F,G,S) (Showtime Ice Cream) A Bailey 4-8-4 ... D Biggs 92
619 (9) 3336166 SHADOOF 29 (F) (Mrs H Levy) W Muir 3-8-4 ... M Roberts 99
620 (10) 0111122 MCGILLYCUDDY REEKS 14 (D,F,G) (E Inocsa) E Inocsa 6-8-3 Kim Tinkler 103
BETTING: 6-1 Song Of Freedom, 7-1 Oops Pettie, 8-1 Fahs, 10-1 Kuala Lipis, Dreams End, Chief Monarch, Edan Heights, 12-1 others
1996: CLIFTON FOX 4-9-1 D Harrison (10-1) J Glover 17 ran

FORM FOCUS Kuala Lipis 6¼l 5th to Amyas in 1¼m York handicap (good). Oops Pettie 5¼l 4th to Honourable in 1½m York handicap (good) with My Lewicia (levels) 14l 10th and Mattimeo (levels) 28l last. Dreams End 3¾l 16th to Far Ahead in 1¼m York handicap (good). Khayali 3¾l 3rd to Mohawk River in 1¼m Newmarket handicap (good). Wafir 5l 8th to Labeq in 1¼m Newmarket handicap (good to firm) with Ihtiyati (3lb worse off) 16l 10th. Infatuation 2½l 2nd to Princess Topaz in 1½m Newmarket ladies handicap (good). Fahs 6¾l 3rd to Present Situation in 1m16f Epsom handicap (good to soft). Edan Heights beat Cherokee Flight neck in 1¼m Leicester apprentice handicap (good to firm). Sheer Face 2l 2nd to Sweet Fortune in 1m Thirsk limited stakes (good). Shadoof 3l 6th to Song Of Freedom (4lb worse off) in 1¼m Newbury handicap (good to firm). Mcgillycuddy Reeks 1¾l 2nd to Ganga in 1¼m Ripon fillies handicap (good)

OOPS PETTIE is taken to conform an apparent return to form last time

5.15 H L BROWN DIAMOND NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £5,166: 6f) (16 runners)

1 (8) 252 NIGHT SHOT 19 (BF) (J Smith) I Balding 9-7 ... L Dettori 83
2 (13) 05123 PREMIUM PURSUIT 59 (B,CD,G) (J Parsons) R Fahey 9-5 ... R Winston (7) 77
3 (10) 12343 ANGEL HILL 18 (F) (D K D Partnership) T Barron 9-1 ... K Fallon 81
4 (6) 2226 BLUE KITE 19 (T Clarke) N Littmoden 8-11 ... J Weaver 77
5 (11) 0242 FAR REMOVED 18 (Mrs J Ramsden) Mrs J Ramsden 8-8 ... J Fortune 83
6 (4) 066010 RA RA RASPUTIN 14 (BF,D) (D Allen) B McMahon 8-8 ... M Roberts 76
7 (15) 0050 SHANNON'S SECRET 46 (Mrs S Tucker) B Meehan 8-7 ... Pat Eddery 83
8 (16) 050 LAMBS LANE 18 (B) (A Bottomley) T Easterby 8-5 ... L Charnock 82
9 (3) 1252361 INCHALONG 16 (D,G) (Northgate Lodge Partnership) M Britain 8-5 G Bardwell +85
10 (2) 501660 MILL END QUEST 11 (G) (W Allgood) M W Easterby 8-2 ... Dale Gibson 79
11 (9) 3035 ITALIAN ROSE 15 (Serafino Agodino) W Musson 8-1 ... J F Egan 81
12 (12) 04U55 LIFE SENTENCE 19 (B) (Hoprhod Racing) J G Smyth-Osbourne 7-10 F Norton 80
13 (5) 4000 BRIDGHOUSE LADY 18 (Mrs D Smart) R Hollinshead 7-10 ... N Carlisle 75
14 (7) 040 COOL MYSTERY 14 (G Darley Racing Partnership) A Mulholland 7-10 D Wright 72
15 (14) 400 MEMORIAL 24 (Highclere Thoroughbred Racing Ltd) R Hannon 7-10 G Rutter 70
16 (1) 001404 THREE TENNERS 43 (B,D,S) (N Wilson) J Berry 7-10 ... P Fessey (3) 73
Long handicap, Memorial 7-9, Three Tenners 7-8
BETTING: 7-2 Far Removed, 5-1 Night Shot, 7-1 Premium Pursuit, Inchalong, 10-1 Blue Kite, 12-1 Angel Hill, Italian Rose, 14-1 others
1996: SHARP HAT 9-4 L Dettori (6-1) R Hannon 16 ran

GOODWOOD

THUNDERER

2.15 Waypoint
2.45 Green Card
3.20 Soviet Leader
3.55 Premier Night
4.30 Wales
5.00 Dick Turpin

GOING: GOOD — DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST — SIS

2.15 MGM ASSURANCE RATED HANDICAP (£9,495: 7f) (12 runners) — BBC1

1 (3) 4-21020 TREGARON 23 (D,F) (D Haha Jones) R Akehurst 6-9-7 ... A Clark 109
2 (8) 2291300 TUMBLEWEED RIDGE 21 (B,D,F,S) (Tumbleweed) S Mellon 4-9-7 M Tebbutt 110
3 (12) 0430400 HELLO MISTER 3 (C,F,G,S) (B Malem) T Powell 6-9-0 P McCabe (3) 107
4 (2) 11-3140 CRAIGIEVAR 83 (D,F,S) (D Russell) J Fanshawe 3-8-13 ... N Day 104
5 (11) 13-3200 DANCING DROP 14 (F,G) (M Suhail) R Hannon 3-8-12 ... Dane O'Neill 99
6 (6) 120-624 SPEEDBALL 121 (F) (J Smith) I Balding 3-8-10 ... Martin Dwyer 96
7 (1) 10-301 SHOWBOAT 23 (D,F) (R Hollinshead) B Hills 3-8-3 ... G Duffield 80
9 (7) 0006522 LAW COMMISSION 28 (D,F) (R Tootle) D Elsworth 7-8-9 ... S Drowne 106
9 (5) 2312100 WAYPOINT 9 (D,F) (R Richards) R Charlton 4-8-8 ... R French (3) 114
10 (9) 31-3100 COSMIC PRINCE 35 (D,F,G) (Cosmic Greyhounds) M Jarvis 3-8-7 R Cochrane 101
11 (4) 215-640 BACHELORS PAD 99 (C,F) (Mrs D Allen) W Jarvis 3-8-7 ... W Ryan 93
12 (10) 621-000 URSA MAJOR 29 (K Blake) P Kelleway 3-8-3 ... G Hind —
BETTING: 9-2 Tregaron, 5-1 Showboat, Cosmic Prince, 7-1 Dancing Drop, Law Commission, 8-1 Hello Mister, Craigievar, Speedball, 10-1 others
1996: STAR OF ZILZAL 4-8-9 A Clark (10-1) M Stoute 8 ran

FORM FOCUS Tregaron 12l 8th to Hidden Meadow in 7f York listed stakes (good). Tumbleweed Ridge 36l last to Swiss Law in 7f Goodwood handicap (good). Hello Mister 3½l 9th to Dashing Blue in 5½f Doncaster handicap (good to firm). Craigievar 13l last of 8 to Occupandrite in 7f Longchamp group III (heavy). Dancing Drop 19l 9th to One So Wonderful in 1m Sandown fillies' listed stakes (soft). Speedball 6½l 4th to Tayzeer in 7f York handicap (good). Showboat beat Tarrio neck in 1m Salisbury stakes (good to firm). Law Commission neck 2nd to Young Precedent in 7f Newbury handicap (good to firm). Waypoint 7¾l 9th to La Modiste in 7f Salisbury fillies' handicap (good to soft)

WAYPOINT should be suited by the likely strong pace and is still well treated

2.45 WESTMINSTER TAXI INSURANCE SELECT STAKES (Group III: £22,960. 1m 2f) (5 runners) — BBC1

1 (3) 5045544 ACHARNE 9 (S) (Parrot Racing) C Brittain 4-9-0 ... G Duffield -114
2 (5) 221-162 DESERT STORY 122 (F,S) (M al-Maktoum) M Stoute 3-8-10 ... W Ryan 119
3 (4) -124251 AMJD ALBADU 19 (B,D,F,G,S) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 3-8-7 ... G Carter 126
4 (2) 2-16233 FAHRIS 21 (F) (H al-Maktoum) B Hanbury 3-8-7 ... R Cochrane 121
5 (1) 0-10342 GREEN CARD 26 (F) (P Chui S Wood) J Berry 3-8-7 ... N Day 122
BETTING: 13-8 Desert Story, 5-2 Amjd Albadu, 3-1 Fahris, 6-1 Green Card, 16-1 Acharne
1996: SINGSPIEL 4-9-3 G Asmussen (11-10 fav) M Stoute 4 ran

FORM FOCUS Acharne 9l 4th to Winter Romance in 1m 1f listed race at York (soft). Desert Story 2½l 2nd to Benny The Dip in 1m 2f group two at York (good). Amjd Albadu beat Winter Romance 5l in 1m 2f Epsom minor event (good to soft). Fahris 2¾l 3rd to Annus Mirabilis in 1m 2f Windsor group three (good to firm). Green Card 1½l 2nd to Salmon Ladder in 1m 2f Windsor conditions race (good to firm) with Acharne (2lb worse off) 5¾l 4th

GREEN CARD was not ridden to best advantage at Windsor and can step up on that

3.20 WILLIAM HILL SPRINT CUP HANDICAP (£15,565: 6f) (29 runners) — BBC1

1 (29) 21-3 LOCHANGEL 126 (EF,D,F) (J Smith) I Balding 3-9-13 ... R Cochrane 87
2 (23) 0-46030 LOCH PATRICK 14 (CD,F,G,S) (E Coffer) M Madgwick 7-9-12 ... A Eddery (7) 83
3 (16) 0303060 WILDWOOD FLOWER 10 (CD,F,G) (G H-Spratt) R Hannon 4-9-12 Dane O'Neill 95
4 (22) 11-3405 CRYSAVOC 21 (D,F) (A Pakenham) J Arnold 3-9-11 ... A Clark 94
5 (20) 4012122 NO EXTRAS 21 (CD,F,G,S) (K Higgins) G L Moore 7-9-7 ... J Quinn 99
6 (5) 4-02111 ALWAYS ON MY MIND 44 (D,F,G,S) (Blacksmith Stud) P Makin 3-9-6 Paul Eddery 101
7 (9) 1052001 MARCH CRUSADER 12 (D,F,S) (M al-Maktoum) B Hanbury 3-9-6 ... W Ryan 103
8 (27) 6400221 SHARP PEARL 21 (B,F) (D Yeats) P R Webber 4-9-6 ... D Sweeney (3) 95
9 (17) 2006036 JEFFREY ANOTHERRED 10 (D,F,G,S) (Highgrove Ltd) K McAuliffe 3-9-5 G Hind 92
10 (6) -160505 YOUDONTSAY 14 (C,D,F,S) (T Nicholls) T Houghton 5-9-5 D O'Donohoe (3) 96
11 (26) 210301 DOUBLE OSCAR 17 (B,D,F,G) (Trinity Racing) D Nicholls 4-9-3 A Nicholls (7) 95
12 (11) 0-00005 SAMWAR 14 (D,G) (Magnum Ltd) M Channon 5-9-2 ... G Carter 92
13 (15) 0154036 SOVIET LEADER 14 (D,S) (Triathlon Racing) R Guest 3-9-2 ... R French (3) 90
14 (2) 6644515 GOLDEN POUND 29 (B,D,F,G) (A Grifoni) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-2 R Mullen (5) 84
15 (10) 5031011 RIFFIFI 21 (CD,G) (Shadrapar Standing Ltd) P Ingram 4-9-0 D R McCabe 100
16 (25) -131035 STATE OF CAUTION 8 (B) (J Fenwick) D Shaw 4-9-0 ... J Fanning 95
17 (3) 0020033 LA PETITE FUSEE 27 (D,F,G,S) (M Gibson) R C Spicer 6-8-13 ... R Havlin (3) 102
18 (8) 4111056 FAIRY PRINCE 5 (D,F,G) (A Murphy) Mrs A King 4-8-9 ... M Tebbutt 94
19 (7) 1111126 DISTINCTIVE DREAM 24 (B,D,F,G) (K Ivory) K Ivory 3-8-8 Martin Dwyer 96
20 (19) -000900 LADY DIESIS 29 (D,G) (J Peter McBlain) B Hills 3-8-7 ... J D Smith (3) 87
21 (2) 2330200 IVORY DAWN 8 (V,CD,G) (D Ivory) K Ivory 3-8-6 ... J Lowe 88
22 (24) 0024516 KIND OF LIGHT 9 (D,F,G) (Mrs B Mills) R Guest 4-8-6 ... S Drowne 95
23 (15) 042154 GRAND CHAPEAU 11 (D,F,G) (D Faulkner) D Nicholls 5-8-2 ... G Duffield 96
24 (14) 0009002 MALLIA 14 (D,F,G) (H Dudden) T Barron 4-7-12 ... A Mackay 113
25 (23) 0001130 TEA PARTY 9 (B,C,S) (A Richards) K Burnington-Brown 4-7-13 M Henry (3) 100
26 (27) 0003525 SCISSOR RIDGE 21 (CD,F) (D Smith) J Bridger 5-7-10 ... R Brisland (7) 96
27 (18) 0160002 BAYIN 5 (D,F,G,S) (C Barker) M Usher 8-7-10 ... R Street 94
28 (4) 5000026 HE

RACING

Desert Story to return freshened by lay-off

GOODWOOD

BBC1

2.15: Waypoint, tried visored in the Stewards' Cup, reverted to this trip at Salisbury last time but pulled too hard in a slowly-run race (ground not as fast as she likes anyway, and further rain not wanted here). Cosmic Prince, in the adjacent stall, should ensure a decent gallop here. Hello Mister finished clear on the unfavoured far side at Doncaster on Wednesday. Though he has had better fortune with the draw here, he is probably less potent at this distance.

2.45: Fahris, the Derby sixth, found Windsor too sharp last time and it could be a similar story here. He is a real galloping type who could get outpaced in a tactical race. **Desert Story**, who pulled muscles in the Dante Stakes and has been off since, had by contrast shown enough speed to run sixth in the 2,000 Guineas — and earlier showed that he runs well fresh by winning the Craven on his reappearance.

3.20: Double Oscar, another feather in his trainer's cap, has the help of a high draw; likewise No Extras, who goes well here (2lb better off for a head with Rififi on their recent course and distance encounter). March Crusader prefers faster ground than he overcame at Hamilton, but this can be fought out in the middle by Mallia, who has ended a poor sequence and is well treated on his best, and **Soviet Leader**. Unable to get into the race on soft ground last time, his first start since being gelded, he had previously excelled against Danetime and Elnadim at Newmarket.

CHRIS MCGRATH

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

DONCASTER

CHANNEL 4

3.05: Stanton Harcourt was not inconvenienced by stepping back to a mile when winning at Newmarket last time and is on the upgrade. With Yeast and Jo Mell likely to contribute to a strong pace, he should go well. By contrast, **Yorkie George** has been campaigned over six and seven furlongs but has looked as though he would appreciate today's longer trip.

3.40: see facing page.

4.15: Banningham Blade is weighted to reverse Newbury form with Aurigny but looks exposed and **Land Of Dreams** is preferred. Although she has been racing over six furlongs, she is blessed with plenty of pace and should be at least as effective over the minimum trip.

4.45: The well drawn **Fahs** ran with credit over an inadequate trip at Epsom after three lacklustre efforts and looks set to bounce back to the form which saw him win by five lengths over this trip at Sandown in May. Song Of Freedom can be forgiven a moderate run at Sandown two weeks ago where he encountered soft ground for the first time.

RICHARD EVANS

JULIAN HERBERT ALLSPORT

Daggers Drawn leaves fourth-placed Carrowkeel in his wake in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster yesterday

IT IS increasingly evident that Mick Kinane rides against Kieren Fallon with bayonet fixed — and he again supplied a frisson of menace before Daggers Drawn could preserve his unbeaten record at Doncaster yesterday (Chris McGrath writes).

As the Laurent-Perrier Rose Champagne Stakes entered its decisive stage, Fallon was still hemmed in by his compatriot, who was riding Saratoga Springs. Though he extricated Daggers Drawn in time to get up by half a length from Docksider, his manoeuvre required formal approval by the stewards.

"I had a nightmare run," Fallon said. "But it was the way I rode him. The opposition will always prey on the best horse, and Mick Kinane always rides a very tactical race. After being boxed in, my horse has done very well to get out and win. They didn't go very quickly, and you don't get horses winning five or six lengths when that happens. I think he's the best two-year-old we've seen so far." He will attempt to confirm as much in the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket.

All in all, the messy tactical veneer of yesterday's race distracted from the fundamental merit of its winner. William Hill even eased Daggers Drawn a point to 6-1 for the 2,000 Guineas, at which price he shares favouritism with King Of Kings. Coral and Ladbrokes both kept him at 5-1, and 8-1 against the Irish colt.

If backers of Daggers Drawn felt some relief to collect, those who had earlier supported another very promising juvenile, City Honours, can only have felt disbelief. He got up in the last stride in the AMCO Corporation Maiden, having left himself half a dozen lengths to make up in the final furlong. Robert Sangster, his owner, said: "We have always thought him our Derby horse, and he's probably the most exciting colt we have had at Manton since Rodrigo De Triano. John Reid said that he had to be very special to accelerate the way he did."

Frankie Dettori was banned for six days, from September 21 to 26, for irresponsible riding on Leading Note in the Tilney Portfolio Limited Stakes at Goodwood yesterday. Fortunately for Dettori, he will be back to ride at the Ascot Festival of Racing on September 27, the meeting at which he rode all seven winners last year.

Peintre Celebre to press Arc claim

BY OUR FRENCH RACING CORRESPONDENT

PEINTRE CELEBRE can enhance his Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe claim in the Prix Niel at Longchamp tomorrow. André Fabre has trained Peintre Celebre with the Arc in mind and this will be the three-year-old's first run since he landed the Grand Prix de Paris in June.

Michael Bell provides the sole British representative against him with Ivan Luis, whose third in the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood looks unlikely to trouble the favourite. If there is to be an upset, a more likely source is Rajpoute.

The Prix Vermeille boasts a stronger British presence with Dust Dancer, trained by John Dunlop, and the Luca Cumani-trained Kaliana and Ridaiyma.

Dust Dancer opened her pattern race account in the group three Prix de la Nonette, beating the Prix de Diane winner, Vereva, by a short head with the Oaks second, Gazelle Royale, a length third. Gazelle Royale reopposes and will be well suited by the extra two furlongs.

Kaliana, a half-sister to Kahyasi, has raced only three times, but has shown useful form, winning the Galtres Stakes at York, and is open to plenty of improvement.

Mousse Glacee and Brilliance, who chased home Vereva in the Diane, are the other major players. Mousse Glacee has not run since that contest, in early June, but is another who will appreciate this longer trip, while Brilliance proved that she stays 1½ miles when third to Ebadiyla in the Irish Oaks.

Frankie Dettori rides John Gosden's Tamure in the Prix Foy. However, he has become disappointing and, in a cosmopolitan line-up including the 1995 Melbourne Cup runner-up, Nothin' Leica Dane, and the Japanese-trained Sakura Laurel, Surgeon, with Cash Asmussen on board, makes most appeal.

LONGCHAMP TOMORROW BBC2

GOING: GOOD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

3.10 PRIX VERMEILLE (Group I: 3-Y-O: £89,786. 1m 4f) (9 runners)

1 (9) 121 KALIANA 24 (D,G,S) (HRH Aga Khan) L Cumani (GB) 9-0 J Reid 126
2 (6) 311 RIDAIYMA 25 (D,F,G) (HRH Aga Khan) L Cumani (GB) 9-0 P Copple 99+
3 (8) 2-11133 BRILLIANCE 63 (C,G,S) (Evanne Shaymen Farm) P Bary 9-0 S Guillot 122
4 (2) 1551411 DUST DANCER 22 (D,F,G,S) (Hesmonds Stud) J Dunlop (GB) 9-0 Pat Eddery 116
5 (4) 11-262 MOUSSE GLACEE 98 (C,S) (Satish Sanan) J Lesbordes 9-0 G Mosse 118
6 (5) 5-14153 LEGEND MAKER 42 (D,G,S) (M Tabor) A Fabre 9-0 T Jarnet 106
7 (3) 02-1103 QUEEN MAUD 56 (BF,C,G) (G Tanaka) J De Roualle 9-0 O Peslier 104
8 (1) 1-201 SILVER FUN 84 (CD,S) (Wertheimer Brothers) Mme C Head 9-0 D Boleaux 107
9 (7) 413-323 GAZELLE ROYALE 22 (G) (K Yeshda) J Hammond 9-0 C Asmussen 123

BETTING: 7-2 Dust Dancer 9-2 Mousse Glacee, 5-1 Brilliance, 11-2 Kaliana, 6-1 Gazelle Royale, 8-1 Silver Fun, 10-1 Legend Maker, 12-1 others

3.40 PRIX NIEL (Group II. 3-Y-O: £44,893: 1m 4f) (5 runners)

1 (4) 3-12513 IVAN LUIS 47 (D,F,G) (L Gaucci) M Bell (GB) 9-2 J Reid 121
2 (5) 245121 RAJPOUTE 30 (D,G,S) (J Martin) F Doumen 9-2 G Mosse 112
3 (3) -513526 ITHAKI 50 (D,G) (Niarchos Family) J Pease 9-2 C Asmussen 124
4 (2) 14-4013 NEW FRONTIER 50 (C,S) (M Tabor) A Fabre 9-2 T Jarnet 119
5 (1) 13-111 PEINTRE CELEBRE 84 (C,D,G,S) (D Wildenstein) A Fabre 9-2 O Peslier 131

BETTING: 1-2 Peintre Celebre, 5-1 Rajpoute, 8-1 Ivan Luis, 10-1 New Frontier, 12-1 Ithaki

4.15 PRIX FOY (Group III: £28,596: 1m 4f) (8 runners)

1 (5) 4-0-435 TAMURE 87 (C,D,F,G,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden (GB) 5-9-2 L Dettori 103
2 (6) 0-11121 SURGEON 56 (CD,F,G,S) (M Abdullah) J De Roualle 4-9-2 C Asmussen 124
3 (2) 14-5411 STEWARD 98 (CD,G,S) (G Coode) D Sepulchre 4-9-2 S Guillot 122
4 (1) 05-5625 NOTHIN' LEICA DANE 29 (G) (Mr & Mrs T Smith) J Hammond 5-9-2 G Mosse 99+
5 (4) 060-223 LE DESTIN 100 (G) (M Debeusscher) P Demercastel 4-9-2 T Gillet 120
6 (7) 00/5222 YOKOHAMA 65 (Mme A Paulson) Mme C Head 6-9-2 O Doleuze 114
7 (6) 15-2414 FOR VALOUR 56 (CD,G,S) (A Richards) A Fabre 4-9-2 T Jarnet 110
8 (3) 11131-2 SAKURA LAUREL 140 (D,F) (Sakura Commerce) F Kojima (Jpn) 6-9-2 Y Take –

BETTING: 3-1 Surgeon, Steward, 4-1 For Valour, 5-1 Le Destin, 6-1 Yokohama, 8-1 Tamure, 12-1 Nothin' Leica Dane, 14-1 Sakura Laurel

LEOPARDSTOWN C4

GOING: GOOD — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

4.00 ESAT DIGIFONE CHAMPION STAKES (Group I: £88,800: 1m 2f) (7 runners)

1 (7) 331-210 ALHAARTH 45 (F,G,S) (Godolphin) S Suroor (GB) 4-9-4 K Darley 122
2 (1) 21-3212 PILSUDSKI 49 (D,F,G,S) (Lord Weinstock) M Stoute (GB) 5-9-4 M J Kinane 132
3 (2) -211412 DESERT KING 25 (G,S) (M Tabor) A P O Brien 3-8-11 C Roche 129
4 (4) 4-24220 NO SLOUCH 41 (G) (M Tabor) A P O Brien 3-8-11 J A Heffernan 113
5 (3) 41-12 RAYOUNI 28 (BF,G) (H H Aga Khan) J Dee 3-8-11 J P Murtagh 116
6 (5) 110-351 SWIFT GULLIVER 98 (C,F,G,S) (Ballylinch Stud) J Bolger 3-8-11 K J Manning 111
7 (6) 31123 DANGEROUS DIVA 6 (BF,G) (Mrs R Langan) A P O'Brien 3-8-8 W J Supple 112

BETTING: 5-4 Pilsudski, 7-4 Desert King, 6-1 Alhaarth, 10-1 Rayouni, 14-1 Swift Gulliver, 16-1 others

1996: TIMARIDA 4-9-1 J P Murtagh (3-1) J Dee 6 ran

WORCESTER

THUNDERER

2.25 Contract Bridge. 2.55 Old Bombay. 3.30 Fiveleigh Builds. 4.00 Lagan. 4.35 Albemine. 5.05 Luggsy.

GOING: GOOD — SIS

2.25 ACTON GREEN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,007. 2m) (18 runners)

1 U02- MR BEAN 12F (D,F) K Burke 7-11-13 B McGann (7)
2 20-5 ELA MAN HOWA 19 Mrs L Williamson 6-11-6 C McCormack (3)
3 00P- ERLIANS 17F (D,S) S Mellor 7-11-6 C Webb
4 154- CONTRACT BRIDGE 10F (F) P Murphy 4-11-3 L Aspell
5 4U-0 NIGHT BOAT 43 (G) W Clay 6-11-2 Guy Lewis
6 10-F SET-EM-ALIGHT 19 (D,F) R Lee 7-10-11 X Aizpuru
7 2334 DANE ROSE 9 (F,G) M Sheppard 11-10-10 R Thornton
8 -432 BRIGHT SAPPHIRE 19 (F,G,S) J R Bosley 11-10-10 D Fortt
9 026- PERSIAN DAWN 52F R Phillips 4-10-10 E Hogan
10 6-03 SAFECRACKER 19 (F) C Morlock 4-10-10 P Henley
11 23-0 JUST FOR A REASON 17 (N,D,G) R Jackes 5-10-8 R Massey
12 /P-5 ACQUITTAL 43 (V) A Streeter 5-10-2 D Parker
13 0015 GALLOPING GUNS 28 (CD,F) B Llewellyn 5-10-2 Michael Brennan
14 P06- DODGY DANCER 29A Mrs L Williamson 7-10-1 T Dascombe
15 PPPY TOMASHENKO 101F T Donnelly 8-10-0 M H Naughton
16 /P4- MERELY MORTAL 40T B Preece 6-10-0 J Mogford (5)
17 0PP- BACKHANDER 28F (B) R Phillips 5-10-0 W Walsh (5)
18 0-P6 AGAINST THE CLOCK 28 (B) P Bowen 5-10-0 L Cummins

5-1 Galloping Guns, 6-1 Contract Bridge, 7-1 Safecracker, 8-1 Night Boat, Dane Rose, 10-1 Mr Bean, Persian Dawn, Just For A Reason, 12-1 others

2.55 QUEENSWAY HURDLE (£2,035. 3m) (12)

1 6/ CHRIS'S LAD 3F B Meehan 6-11-5 G Upton
2 PP-6 COTTAGE JOKER 18 J Allen 7-11-5 X Aizpuru (5)
3 1/P- GALLANT LORD 543 (D,G) Mrs L Jewell 8-11-5 J R Kavanagh
4 05 LORD MICKEY 19 P Hobbs 5-11-5 G Tormey
5 3-02 OLD BOMBAY 49 D Nicholson 5-11-5 A Maguire
6 05P- PHAR DESERT 171P D Brace 6-11-5 L Harvey
7 00P- ST MELLION LEISURE 206 R Hawke 5-11-5 A Thornton
8 P-FP THE YOKEL 59 B Baugh 11-11-5 R Johnson
9 002- WELSH SILK 168 D Gandolfo 5-11-5 R Dunwoody
10 U-32 OUR NIKKI 1 P Rodford 7-11-0 S Burrough
11 2262 SEA TARTH 21 (B) P Bowen 6-11-0 N Williamson
12 -623 SPARKLING BUCK 27 N Ayliffe 5-11-0 Guy Lewis (3)

5-2 Sea Tarth, 3-1 Old Bombay, 4-1 Welsh Silk, 6-1 Chris's Lad, 7-1 others

3.30 ASTLEY HANDICAP CHASE (£4,372. 3m) (7)

1 1221 IFFEE 19 (B,CD,F,G,S) P Bowen 10-12-0 R Johnson
2 1-31 FIVELEIGH BUILDS 53 (CD,F,G) Miss Russell 10-11-9 A Thornton
3 6225- CAROLE'S CRUSADER 149 (F,G) D Gandolfo 6-10-13 R Dunwoody
4 341P ANDRELOT 10 (B,C,F,G) P Bowen 10-10-12 R Thornton (3)
5 PU-3 CANTORIS FRATER 18 (CD,G,S) M Pitman 10-10-3 W Marston
6 2P-P HARRISTOWN LADY 35 (B,F,G) G Balding 10-10-0 A Maguire
7 P21- CARDINAL RULE 113 (G,S) Miss Williams 8-10-0 N Williamson

5-2 Carole's Crusader, 3-1 Fiveleigh Builds, 7-2 Iffee, 9-2 Cardinal Rule, 8-1 others

4.00 JOHN E SMITH 60TH YEAR CELEBRATION HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,368. 2m 4f) (8)

1 -121 SHERIFF 19 (CD,F,G,S) J Hills 6-11-13 C Llewellyn
2 43P5 BAMAPOUR 36 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-6 A P McCoy
3 513- COKENNY BOY 220 (F,G,S) M Pitman 12-11-4 N Williamson
4 31P- CRANDON BOULEVARD 163 (F) Mrs J Pitman 4-11-2 R Farrant
5 1-43 LAGAN 36 (F,G) K Morgan 4-10-8 R Dunwoody
6 51-0 WINSFORD HILL 98 (BF,F,G) J Williams 6-10-1 B Powell
7 /044 CHICAGO'S BEST 28 (B,CD,F,G) M Coombe 10-10-0 Miss M Coombe
8 0522 PERSIAN MYSTIC 33 (G) D Weale 5-10-0 W Marston

11-4 Bamapour, 7-2 Sheriff, 5-1 Cokenny Boy, Lagan, 11-2 Crandon Boulevard, 8-1 Winsford Hill, 10-1 Persian Mystic, 16-1 Chicago's Best

4.35 W & P FOODSERVICE NOVICES CHASE (£3,729. 2m) (13)

1 3-11 AMLAH 15 (D,F,G) P Hobbs 5-11-8 B Powell
2 F31F FENWICK'S BROTHER 12 (BF,F) Mrs S Smith 7-11-3 R Williamson (5)
3 -U0P ALPINE MIST 53 (D,F,G) J O'Shea 5-11-1 Michael Brennan (3)
4 305- ALBEMINE 110 (D,F) P Eccles 8-10-10 A Maguire
5 PFP- AQUEOUS ROCKS 131P B Preece 6-10-10 J Mogford (7)
6 63-4 ASTERIX 10 (F) J Bradley 9-10-10 R Johnson
7 R53- CAMP HEAD 106 O Sherwood 6-10-10 J A McCarthy
8 /20 FOR JUSTIN 1423 (D,G) R Alner 10-10-10 A Thornton
9 104 SAILIN MINSTREL 36 (BF,D,S) M Pitman 6-10-10 R Farrant
10 0-UD SCALP 'EM 87 P Pritchard 9-10-10 Dr P Pritchard
11 PP6- BABA AU RHUM 36F I Williams 5-10-8 A P McCoy
12 500- STANMORE 211 C Brooks 5-10-8 G Bradley
13 421- CUILLIN CAPER 80F (D,F,S) T Watson 5-10-3 W Marston

15-8 Amlah, 11-2 Camp Head, 6-1 Albemine, 7-1 Sailin Minstrel, 10-1 others

5.05 EDGBASTON STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,298. 2m) (20)

1 BOOTED OUT D Brace 5-11-4 L Harvey
2 02- CONNEL'S CROFT 152 T Paddy 5-11-4 S Ryan (5)
3 /46- DRAGON FLY 404 P Bowen 6-11-4 R Johnson
4 050 HENRY TUDOR 40 A James 5-11-4 A Maguire
5 HERBISAHEAD 6 McCourt 5-11-4 D J Moffatt
6 LUGGSY N Twiston-Davies 5-11-4 C Llewellyn
7 AHRAYDOUBLEYOU Mrs S Smith 4-11-2 R Williamson (5)
8 0 BLAZING LORD 17 J Bradley 4-11-2 N Williamson
9 SAMSHAN K Hogg 4-11-2 K Johnson
10 BALLY LIRA P Rodford 5-10-13 S Burrough
11 ELLOPASSOFF J Bradley 5-10-13 B Fenton
12 HAMILTON PRINCESS P Hogg 5-10-13 A Thornton
13 PURPLE LACE H Howe 5-10-13 B Powell
14 0/ SECURON LADY 539 C Jackson 6-10-13 Miss S Jackson
15 TOP SCHOLAR G Yardley 5-10-13 V Slattery
16 0- WILMA'S CHOICE 218 D Geraghty 6-10-13 R Supple
17 CATCH THE ACTION M R Bosley 4-10-11 R Dunwoody
18 GO FOR IT SWEETIE G Barnett 4-10-11 Mr B Leahy
19 3 KATES CHARM 17 R Price 4-10-11 T C Murphy (7)
20 0 MARY FRANCIS 17 L Bartolet 4-10-11 Mr O McPhail (7)

11-4 Luggsy, 5-1 Herbisahead, 11-2 Kates Charm, 7-1 Dragon Fly, 10-1 others

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bangor: 2.10 Circle Of Magic. 3.10 Bellfox. 4.50 Fellow. Doncaster: 2.30 Shinsolla. 3.05 Hawaan. 5.15 Premium Pursuit. Lambourn: Late Sentence. Goodwood: 3.20 Ivory Dawn. 3.55 Manton Pearl. Worcester: 2.25 Backhander.

BANGOR

THUNDERER

2.10 Chateauherault. 2.40 Freddie Muck. 3.10 Prussia. 3.45 Mighty Merc. 4.20 Green Green Desert. 4.50 Follow De Call.

GOING: GOOD — SIS

2.10 GORDON MYTTON HOMES JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £2,905. 2m 1f) (16 runners)

1 21 STONED IMMACULATE 17F (D,F) F Murphy 10-12 P Carberry
2 CHATEAUHERAULT 21F P Haslam 10-10 M Foster
3 DUNSTON BILL 58F G Barnett 10-10 A Dobbin
4 FORTUNE HUNTER 108F J Norton 10-10 D Byrne
5 LEVITICUS 22F T Tate 10-10 R Garrity
6 MACARI 12F B Baugh 10-10 Gary Lyons
7 MAJOR TWIST 130F N Twiston-Davies 10-10 C Llewellyn
8 MELLWOOD 109F M Tompkins 10-10 R Guest
9 PRAIRIE MINSTREL 24F R Dickin 10-10 J Culloty
10 3 REAL FIRE 43 M Meagher 10-10 F Leahy (3)
11 3 SURPRISE EVENT 10 W G M Turner 10-10 J Power (7)
12 APRIL JACKSON 137F P Dalton 10-5 D Gallagher
13 5 CHILLI BOOM 10 R Simpson 10-5 P McLoughlin
14 CIRCLE OF MAGIC 52F (B) M Pipe 10-5 C Maude
15 MADAM LUCY 29F J Spearing 10-5 J Osborne
16 SMUGGURS 338F D McCain 10-5 T Jenks

9-4 Stoned Immaculate, 7-2 Circle of Magic, 5-1 Leviticus, 8-1 others

2.40 BRYN-Y-PYS NOVICES CHASE (£3,550: 2m 4f 110yd) (8)

1 -214 KING OF SHADOWS 28 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 10-11-12 Gary Lyons
2 0531 FRASER CAREY 19 (B,D,F,G) T George 5-11-9 T J Murphy
3 0F-2 CHAPPUCCI 19 (G,S) Mrs E Heath 7-11-6 D Gallagher
4 630- FREDDIE MUCK 147 (D,F,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-6 T Jenks
5 355- NOTHINGTODOWITHME 278 (F) T Forster 7-11-6 J Osborne
6 463- PHARARE 131 (F,S) R Woodhouse 7-11-6 W Dwan
7 00-P KING OF BABYLON 19 (F) F Jordan 5-11-3 P Carberry
8 525- ANABRANCH 143 (G) J Jefferson 6-11-1 E Callaghan (3)

5-4 Freddie Muck, 6-1 Anabranch, 7-1 Pararare, King Of Shadows, 8-1 Fraser Carey, Nothingtodowithme, 10-1 Chappucci, 20-1 King Of Babylon.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

BANGOR: Trainers: J Spearing, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%; M Pipe, 26 from 87, 29.9%; J Jefferson, 3 from 12, 25.0%; O Sherwood, 5 from 21, 23.8%. Jockeys: F Leahy, 4 winners from 15 rides, 26.7%; J Osborne, 8 from 40, 20.0%; C Llewellyn, 10 from 56, 17.9%; R Garrity, 4 from 26, 15.4%.

WORCESTER: Trainers: O Sherwood, 17 winners from 50 runners, 34.0%; T Watson, 3 from 9, 33.3%; M Pipe, 46 from 149, 30.9%; D Nicholson, 22 from 81, 27.2%. Jockeys: L Aspell, 4 winners from 13 rides, 30.8%; A McCoy, 44 from 155, 28.4%; R Williamson, 23 from 133, 17.3%; G Bradley, 10 from 59, 16.9%; R Johnson, 13 from 77, 16.9%.

3.10 WREXHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,518: 2m 4f) (11)

1 233- ANNA SOLEIL 110 (D,F) O Sherwood 4-12-0 J Osborne
2 434- SHAHRANI 150 (D,F) M Pipe 5-11-13 C Maude
3 2/11 EUPHORIC ILLUSION 71F (C,F,G) Mrs S Smith 6-11-10 R Guest
4 63-P BELLROI 33 (V,CD,F,G) M Tompkins 6-11-9 A Dobbin
5 -P24 BURES 16 (V,F,G) Mrs J Brown 6-11-6 R Garrity
6 21-U FIRST CRACK 19 (C,D,F,G,S) F Jordan 12-11-3 P Carberry
7 20-4 PRUSSIA 18 (D,F) W Clay 6-11-3 D Gallagher
8 4122 FRONTIER FLIGHT 14 (D,F,G) Miss L Siddall 7-10-13 E Husband (3)
9 0-41 OPERA FAN 19 (G,S) R Morgan 5-10-11 P Morris (5)
10 -503 MAJOR'S LAW 8 (G,S) R Simpson 5-10-3 P McLoughlin
11 /P0- PLAY GAMES 194 (G) R Lee 9-10-2 Mr S Durack (7)

7-2 Shahrani, 5-1 Euphoric Illusion, 6-1 Anna Soleil, First Crack, Frontier Flight, 8-1 Opera Fan, 10-1 Bellroi, 12-1 others

3.45 GREENALLS PUBS & RESTAURANTS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,566: 3m 110yd) (6)

1 2033 BIT OF A DREAM 19 (G) Mrs S Smith 7-11-10 R Guest
2 501- TOSKANO 523 (F) D Williams 5-11-7 Mr S Durack (7)
3 33F1 MIGHTY MERC 32 (D,F) Mrs B Broad 9-11-0 A Dobbin
4 R-F2 TONY'S FEELINGS 15 (D,F) Mrs D Thomson 9-10-13 B Storey
5 521- LITTLE BY LITTLE 131P (D,F) B Preece 7-10-6 T Eley
6 F4-1 ROLLED GOLD 98 (D,F) Miss V Williams 8-10-4 T J Murphy

9-4 Mighty Merc, 3-1 Rolled Gold, 7-2 Bit Of A Dream, 11-2 Tony's Feelings, 8-1 Little By Little, 10-1 Toskano

4.20 COOPERS & LYBRAND HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,469: 2m 1f) (6)

1 160- GREEN GREEN DESERT 133 (F,G) O Sherwood 6-12-0 J Osborne
2 301- DANEGOLD 2F (F) M Channon 5-11-1 D Gallagher
3 124- CONTRARRE 110 (CD,F) Mrs A Sanders 5-11-0 J Supple
4 25-1 SECRET SERVICE 14 (G,S) C Thornton 5-10-9 M Foster
5 6340 CHIEF MOUSE 3 (D,F,G) F Jordan 4-10-6 P Carberry
6 03-F NOBLE COLOURS 9 (D,F) S Gollings 4-10-0 A Dobbin

9-4 Secret Service, 3-1 Danegold, 7-2 Green Green Desert, 7-1 Chief Mouse, 8-1 Contrarre, Noble Colours

4.50 DICK FRANCIS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,788. 2m 1f) (11)

1 5PP- FELLOO 189 (B) T George 8-10-10 T J Murphy
2 2325 FOLLOW DE CALL 8 D McCain 7-10-10 T Jenks
3 000/ KEY GRIP 577 Mrs S Smith 6-10-10 R Guest
4 03- STONESBY 190 G M Moore 5-10-10 J Callaghan
5 /0-0 WELSH SPINNER 49 Mrs I McKie 6-10-10 J Culloty
6 0P4 DUNSTON HEATH 18 G Barnett 4-10-8 B Storey
7 00P- CHINOOK'S DAUGHTER 143 G Richards 5-10-5 A Dobbin
8 LITTLE DOLLY T Bill 7-10-5 T Eley
9 66-P MINIBELLE 19 D Williams 5-10-5 Mr S Durack (7)
10 /22- NIFAAF 268 K Morgan 5-10-5 A S Smith
11 00- ABSOLUTE PROOF 126 W G M Turner 4-10-3 J Power (7)

2-1 Nifaaf, 4-1 Stonesby, 7-1 Follow de Call, Chinook's Daughter, 8-1 Felloo, 14-1 Key Grip, Absolute Proof, 16-1 others

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Doncaster

Going: good to firm

1.30 (1m) 1, CITY HONOURS (J Reid, 11-10 fav). 2, Prolix (M Hills, 3-1). 3, Musawwa (R Hills, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 10 Kahtan (4th), 16 Double Blade (5th), 50 Holy Smoke, Jones Nightingale (6th), 66 Shantung. 8 ran. Sh hd, ½l, 4l, 6l. 4l. P Chapple-Hyam at Manton. Tote £2.30; £1.20, £1.60, £1.20. DF £2.40. CSF £4.19.

2.05 (1m 2f 60yd) 1, FAITHFUL SON (J Reid, 11-8 jt-fav). 2, Alazal (S Sanders, 7-1). 3, Musaisal (M Hills, 11-8 jt-fav). ALSO RAN: 8 Yavlensky (4th). 4 ran. NR Fascinating Rhythm. 1½l, hd, 13l. M Stoute at Newmarket. Tote £2.10. DF £4.70. CSF £9.58.

2.35 (1m 4f) 1, BUSY FLIGHT (M Hills, 11-8 fav). 2, Memorise (K Fallon, 2-1). 3, Bahamian Knight (Pat Eddery, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Multicoloured (4th). 11 Key To My Heart (5th). 5 ran. 3l, 9l, 1½l, 14l. B Hills at Lambourn. Tote £2.30; £1.30, £1.50. DF £2.30. CSF £4.04.

3.05 (7f) 1, DAGGERS DRAWN (K Fallon, 4-6 fav). 2, Docksider (M Hills, 9-1). 3, Saratoga Springs (M J Kinane, 6-2). ALSO RAN: 9 Carrowkeel (4th), 50 Stone Of Destiny (5th). 5 ran. ¾l, 1-½l, 3l, 11l. H Cecil at Newmarket. Tote £1.60; £1.10, £3.30. DF £5.80. CSF £7.03.

3.35 (1m 4f) 1, DANTESQUE (G Milligan, 15-2). 2, Elbaaha (R Cochrane, 10-1). 3, Ferry Hill (S Sanders, 8-1). 4, Steamroller Stanly (M Fenton, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Docklands Limo, 7 Catchable, 8 Wahiba Sands, 11 My Learned Friend, 12 Celestial Choir (5th), Magic Combination, Remaadi Sun (6th), 14 Solo Mio, 16 Pinchincha, 33 King Green, Time For Action, 50 Golden Hello. 16 ran. 1½l, 2l, nk, 2l, hd, 6l. Wragg at Newmarket. Tote £8.40; £1.80, £2.10, £2.20, £2.90. DF £35.50. Trio £61.40. CSF £75.97. Tricast £583.31.

4.10 (5f) 1, JUST BOB (D McKeown, 25-1). 2, Shalstayholy (K Fallon, 8-1). 3, Cross The Border (Alex Greaves, 6-1). 4, The Happy Fox (M Roberts, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 5-1 fav Lord High Admiral, 10 Storyteller, 12 Dazzwo, 14 Barranak, Purple Fling, Tuscan Dawn, White Emir, 16 Bollin Harry (6th), Pleasure Time, Swan At Whalley, Tear White, 20 Archello, Malibu Man (5th), Princely Sound, The Wad. 25 Nitty Norman, Shadow Jury, 33 Polly Golightly. 22 ran. Hd, nk, 1l, 2½l, 5l. Kettlewell at Middleham. Tote £27.80; £5.40, £1.50, £2.20, £2.70. DF £218.00. Trio £557.90. CSF £205.60. Tricast £1,294.60.

4.40 (1m) 1, REVOQUE (J Reid, 6-5). 2, Bohinere (R Hills, 10-11 fav). 3, Kuman (K Fallon, 9-1). 3 ran. 1½l, 23l. P Chapple-Hyam. Tote £2.00. DF £1.20. CSF £2.44.

Jackpot: £19,292.60.

Placepot: £13.00. Quadpot: £7.40.

Goodwood

Going: good (round course); good to soft (straight course)

2.10 (1m) 1, Gold Lance (L Dettori, 6-1 fav). 2, Stop On Dogas (11-1). 3, Ca d'oro (14-1). 4, Sovereigns Court (12-1). 22 ran. Nk, ¾l. R O'Sullivan. Tote £5.60; £1.60, £2.50, £4.50, £4.80. DF £15.60. Trio £122.30. CSF £61.32. Tricast £874.10.

2.40 (1m) 1, Alboostan (G Carter, 11-2). 2, Almutawakel (8-13 fav). 3, Due South (9-2). 5 ran. 1l, 1½l. D Morley. Tote £5.70; £3.60, £1.10. DF £2.40. CSF £8.00.

3.10 (1m 1f) 1, Danish Rhapsody (W Ryan, 10-1). 2, King Of Tunes (10-1). 3, The In-Laws (20-1). 4, Tribal Peace (20-1). Mehmz. 5-1 fav. 18 ran. NR: Sharp Shuffle, Virtual Reality. 1½l, 1½l. Lady Herries. Tote £12.20; £2.70, £2.30, £4.30, £4.80. DF £90.90. Trio £319.60. CSF £89.70. Tricast £1,811.50.

3.40 (7f) 1, Kahal (L Dettori, 13-8). 2, Latalomne (8-1). 3, Mamolli (10-11 fav). 4 ran. 3½l, ch hd. S bin Suroor. Tote £2.00. DF £4.00. CSF £11.41.

4.15 (7f) 1, Titan (J F Egan, 8-1). 2, Jungle Story (9-2). 3, Who Nose (10-1). Vice Presidential 4-1 fav. 10 ran. Hd, nk. S Dow. Tote: £17.90; £3.90, £2.20, £2.40. DF: £42.10. Trio: £112.00. CSF: £39.12. Tricast: £341.59.

4.50 (1m 4f) 1, Aerloon Pete (D Holland, 7-2). 2, Pennys From Heaven (7-1). 3, Agony Aunt (14-1). Farmost. 100-30 fav. 7 ran. 6l, nk. M Stoute. Tote £3.50; £2.00, £1.90. DF £12.80. CSF £24.14.

5.20 (6f) 1, Iceband (L Dettori, 4-5 fav); 2, Little Bid (9-1). 3, Sabhaan (11-2). 12 ran. NR: Asyaad, Storm From the East. 3l, 1½l. J Gosden. Tote £1.70; £1.10, £1.90, £1.60. DF £7.30. Trio £10.50. CSF £8.02.

Placepot: £234.80. Quadpot: £87.60.

Worcester

Going: good

2.20 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Toby Brown (A Maguire, 6-4 fav). 2, He's Got Wings (25-1). 3, Diego (7-4). 11 ran. 1½l, 21l. D Nicholson. Tote £3.30; £1.30, £3.00, £1.10. DF: £37.30. Trio: £26.00. CSF: £38.36.

2.55 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, Star Traveller (S Wynne, 8-11 fav); 2, Our Nikki (9-2). 3, Relkoni (7-1). 7 ran. 9l, 8l. T Forster. Tote: £1.90; £1.30, £2.20. DF: £2.80. CSF: £3.78.

3.25 (3m hdle) 1, Hi Marble (M Dunne, 14-1). 2, Ranclegh Boy (10-1). 3, Romalito (5-1). Torch Vert. 5-4 fav. 8 ran. 4l, 13l. Mrs M Jones. Tote £10.40; £2.00, £1.60, £1.70. DF £30.10. CSF £127.56. Tricast £731.95.

4.00 (2m ch) 1, Regal Romper (R Guest, 7-1). 2, Who's To Say (66-1). 3, Spanish Light (8-1). Yubraleo 11-10 fav. 6 ran. 5l, 11l. Mrs S Smith. Tote £7.50; £3.50, £6.70. DF £26.90. CSF £127.80.

4.30 (2m hdle) 1, Infamous (A P McCoy, 10-11 fav). 2, Alaflak (8-1). 3, Clare's Dancer (33-1). 13 ran. 4l, 3½l. R O'Sullivan. Tote £1.80; £1.50, £2.20, £5.90. DF £7.60. Trio: £57.90. CSF £7.53.

5.05 (2m hdle) 1, Nishamura (A Maguire, 2-1 fav). 2, King Of Sparta (5-1). 3, Shiling Moon (5-1). 7 ran. NR: Touch Silver. 2l, 16l. D Nicholson. Tote £4.30; £1.80, £2.30. DF: £9.50. CSF: £11.05. Tricast: £38.31.

Placepot: £127.10.

Quadpot: £67.60.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Today

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

DR MARTENS LEAGUE. Midland division: Evesham v Welbeck Town. **Southern division:** Gloucester Town v

From riches and renown to retirement and personal loss, a rugby legend looks for a new beginning

Davies goes back to his roots

GARETH EVERETT / HUW EVANS

Strength in adversity: friends and family helped Davies to cope with the death of his wife

ROB HUGHES

For a professional sportsman, or woman, coming down from the pedestal of acclaim is the most vulnerable and exacting time of life. You are 30-something, the body is slowing down, the mind has quickened and expanded through experience ... and now suddenly you have decisions to take on which you and your family will sustain the riches of recent years or begin a decline.

Jonathan Davies, secure among the hallowed rugby fly halves of Wales, has begun the transition. It is difficult for any competitor, the challenge no longer to turn an event or a match with a moment of intuitive skill, but to redirect talents and knowledge. When the rock of your own family existence has just been removed, as in the case of Davies, it is so much more sensitive and delicate.

Karen Davies, Jonathan's companion from the age of ten, his wife since they married at 21 and the mother of his three young children, died of stomach cancer in June. They had already discussed where he would like to go, what he would like to do with the rest of his life, and how he could build that around raising Scott, aged nine, Grace, four, and Geena, two.

Last week, in Davies's first assignment as an analyst for BBC Wales, he came to a salutary experience.

He was in Wrexham, covering Wales v Romania. The last time he captained Wales, before defecting to what he calls "my alienation" in rugby league with Widnes, he was vilified. "But I'm better off now than the captain of Romania that day," he said yesterday. "Florica Murariu was shot dead when the revolution came against the Ceausescus."

This afternoon, Davies, the commentator, is in France for Brive against Pontypridd. He is close, still, to the action, though as isolated as any reporter, the wrong side of the dressing-room door. He says that he does not feel the withdrawal on that particular score, that the dressing-room, its intensities and its communal combative rituals, is the least attractive aspect of rugby to him. However, being there, being abroad, is a trial. Some days ago, Grace, having just started school, did not want her father to leave the house. She cried, she talked of tummy pains, but he had a living to make, a journey to take.

The children this weekend are in the village of Cefneithen, to celebrate the ninetieth birthday of their maternal great-grandmother. Through the week, though Davies arranges every possible day so that he takes his daughter to school, he leans on his own mother. She has known tragedy herself: when Jonathan was 14, his father, a steel worker, died of cancer. She not only raised Davies and his sister, but also taught herself to drive so that she could take the fledgeling player to his all-important matches.

Diana Davies and Ken, his stepfather, two weeks ago agreed to give up their life in Trimsaran, the village north of Llanelli, and moved into a house in the same street as Jonathan; and mother has become full-time carer to the family again.

Indeed, Davies is drawing heavily on the parochial spirit of Welsh life, the close-knit support that he left in 1989, when he and Karen uprooted completely to secure the dream of their family life, a £150,000 contract over six years to play rugby league. Her own father had collapsed and died at tea, in front of the pair of them, and behind every decision that Davies took, Karen had her say, although ultimately the choice was his.

Now, with the schools for Scott and Grace within a few hundred yards, with the BBC studios down the road, with Gareth Davies, his predecessor as Wales fly half, living next door, life not only goes on, it also turns full circle.

Davies, on the rugby field, could move as smooth as the Welsh tongue. He had arrogance in his stride, he could dart through a gap that others never saw, he could, in his own words, "smack somebody without hesitation, I was never the cleanest of players". He transferred to the presumed coarseness of league almost without a tremor and won the respect of Australians who themselves would employ him for a summer after being in awe of the way he withstood a straight-arm piece of thuggery, in a match at Old Trafford, to score a magnificent try.

So, in the wake of Cliff Morgan (29 caps, 1951-58), Barry John (25 caps, 1966-72), Phil Bennett (29 caps, 1969-78) and Gareth Davies (21 caps, 1978-85), Jonathan Davies (32 caps, 1985-97), from the same valley community as them, succeeded in tantalising Wales.

He was the 154th player to move from Wales to northern rugby league, yet the resentment came because he was arguably the finest: he was in his prime and he was the hope of a declining sport in a declining region. Unsurprisingly, when he made the return journey, when he became the first player to resume a Wales international career after the crossing of codes, this special performer, just 5ft 8½in and 12st, did not move back into the heart of the valleys but to Llandaff, just outside Cardiff.

They came back to their roots, knowing the change was traumatic for their children. "We were moving house, moving schools for Scott, bringing them to a different language (Welsh is Davies's mother tongue and now his children's), and they brought to the spacious house that Davies had always wanted a new pet, a chocolate-coloured labrador. They did not bring luck: within weeks, Karen's cancer was diagnosed, and earlier this summer, when every treatment had been exhausted, he brought her home and, drawing on her own fierce courage, began to rethink his life in "retirement" and to prepare Scott for her death.

"To me, grief is all private," he said. "I wouldn't be so presumptuous as to comment on people who, in their tens of thousands, queued 12 hours to sign the book of condolence for Princess Diana. I only know that you've got to get on with life, and that's the end of it. If [Prince] William had wanted to chat to someone, I could at least have been respectful, but it's very private, very personal, even if being in the public eye is a part of your upbringing."

There is laughter in the Davies house: how can it be otherwise with children so young? There are weights in the garden shed, there is a compulsion still to go down to Cardiff Rugby Football Club, which continues to employ him while the transition takes place. He has a PR role with Jewsons, which he enjoys because it is not rugby related, he writes a perceptive and challenging column in the *Independent on Sunday*. And behind the microphone he has the intelligence to appreciate that honesty is imperative. "I will praise and I will criticise," he said. "I will have to because there are millions of people who know the game and would know if you are not telling it right."

For someone presumed to have had such innate ability that it simply rolled off him, he displays remarkable analytical presence. "I wanted to be the best outside half that ever lived," he said, "but that wouldn't pay the mortgage. I was fortunate to come up through an era where rugby players mixed and talked to people. Today the players may be richer, but they would struggle to mix and mingle because everything is full-time.

"I trained on Tuesday morning at Cardiff with Robert Howley. I can still enjoy feeling what is in my body, but I packed a lot into ten years, the mental side of it as well as physical. Ultimately, my decision to retire, though not irreversible, was purely made on personal pride. People can remember me for what I was. Why sacrifice everything for the sake of another two years of income?"

Last week, on behalf of Cardiff RFC, he persuaded a youngster to join that club, rather than accept £10,000 more from another. His persuasion? "I told the lad of a serious injury, a cruciate ligament tear in my knee when I was 21. I came through that, but others with a similar injury didn't. I suggested to the youngster, who is a terrific prospect, that he should tell Cardiff he wanted to go to college and that he would come back to them full-time, on his terms, educated, when he was 20."

Educated: Davies himself left school the moment he could escape it, but he learnt from those around him to observe, to look and listen, and he married perfectly. That way he overcame the tragedies in his life where some "great" sportsmen became, in retirement, their own tragedies. I think of Bob Hayes, the 1964 Olympic sprint champion, jailed for drug trafficking. Of Garrincha, a marvellous Brazilian footballer, who died an alcoholic. Of Willie Pastrano, a world boxing champion, who drifted into drugs and crime and lamented that sportsmen should be rehabilitated like Vietnam veterans. Jonathan Davies, 34, has come through more, and appears more of a man than most.

Starting over: Davies with his children Scott, left, Geena and Grace

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Leinster hold line to deny Leicester

Leinster 16
Leicester 9

By Karl Johnston

THIS has been an extraordinary week for Irish rugby. In Galway on Tuesday, Connacht pulled off a resounding defeat of Northampton, and last night at Donnybrook, Leinster followed their example by dethroning Leicester, who reached the final of the Heineken Cup last season.

Leinster had to absorb intense pressure for long periods but absorb it they did, surviving a first-half blitz to restrict Leicester to a 6-3 lead. Seven minutes after the interval, Alan McGowan landed a penalty goal — his second of the match — to level the score, and five minutes later, to the delight of the 5,000-strong crowd, McGowan's third penalty goal put Leinster ahead.

Leicester's handling skills were superior, but what Leinster lacked in ability they more than made up for with spirit, and when they scored the only try of the match, in the sixtieth minute, the scent of victory was in the air.

The build-up to the decisive score came when Leinster were awarded a scrum after a lineout in Leicester's 22. The ball was released and the home team seemed to have lost the initiative, but Martin Ridge tidied up, burst on the blind side and found Kevin Nowlan, the full back, in support to score an excellent try which McGowan converted with a fine kick.

Five minutes later, Stransky revived Leicester's hopes with his third penalty goal, but although Leinster were often on the rack in the final, thrilling minutes, their defence and resolve held firm.

Leinster, who had done better than expected against Toulouse last Saturday, had also played well in the first half, when the visitors had the advantage of a strong wind. Leinster might have done even better had they not been guilty of needless errors at important times.

Stransky opened Leicester's account with a penalty from 35 metres after 21 minutes, when Leinster were caught offside. A few minutes later, Stuart Potter was almost through, but good defending by Leinster ended the danger.

After 30 minutes, Leinster were awarded a free kick in their own 22. McGowan's decision to go for the tap was inexplicable, and as Leinster attempted to run the ball out of defence, they were penalised for handling in the ruck which followed and Stransky landed his second penalty goal.

Leinster finally established a foothold in Leicester territory and McGowan landed a penalty goal from in front of the posts to put the Irish champions in contention.

SCORERS: Leinster: Try: Nowlan (60min) Conversion: McGowan. Penalty goals: McGowan 3 (34, 47, 62). Leicester: Penalty goals: Stransky 3 (21, 31, 66).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Leinster first): 0-3, 0-6, 3-6 (half-time), 6-6, 9-6, 16-6, 16-9.

LEINSTER: K Nowlan (St Mary's College); D Hickie (St Mary's College), M Ridge (Old Belvedere), K McGuinn (Lansdowne), D Crotty; J McWeeney (St Mary's College), A McGowan (Blackrock College); D O'Mahony (Lansdowne), R Corrigan (Greystones), S Byrne (Blackrock College), P Bruce (Terenure College rep P Flavin, Blackrock College, 45min), S Jameson (St Mary's College), A Freeman (Lansdowne), T Brennan (St Mary's College), D O'Sullivan (Swanies), V Costello (St Mary's College).

LEICESTER: M Horak; W Strong, W Greenwood, S Potter, D Joyce; J Stransky, J Hamilton (rep A Healey, 50); G Rowntree, R Cockerill, D Garforth, M Johnson, M Poole (rep D Richards, 52), M Corry, N Back, E Miller.

Referee: J Dume (France).

Harlequins look to their own Gallic connection

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

FRANCE and England were running neck and neck in European competition after the first round of the Heineken Cup but that must change today — unless Harlequins and Bourgoin can contrive a draw at the Stoop Memorial Ground. Victories for the four competing clubs from each country was no particular surprise, the volume of away victories was.

Can it be that home advantage is no longer what it was, particularly for the French who have so frequently been labelled poor travellers? Or is it merely that, so early in the season, few clubs have struck a consistent vein of form as they grapple with changing legal interpretations and the fact that, even since last season, the game has moved on?

Out of ten first-round matches, six went to the visiting teams of whom two — Toulouse and Pau — were French. Therefore the omens are good for Bourgoin's visit to London today for a repast seasoned by the presence in Harlequin ranks of their own Gallic connection, Laurent Cabannes, Thierry Lacroix and, the ace in the hole, Laurent Belligoi, the wing who helped Bourgoin to win the European Conference and reach the finals of the du Manoir Trophy and the national championship last season.

Belligoi, 27, has been closeted with Andy Keast much of this week as the Harlequins' director of rugby divided his time in analysing his French opponents, as well as the reasons for his own team's inconsistent form. "You can train and train, but it's all about execution on the day and if that's spasmodic, it looks as though there is no pattern," Keast said.

"I can't put my finger on the reasons for it. The attitude and application in training this week has been tremendous — and I don't usually say that. Last year we went into Europe for the first time with tremendous enthusiasm: now we have a better understanding of what is required."

Bougoin have made significant changes since beating Cardiff 26-25 a week ago: Nigel Geany, one of two New Zealanders in their XV, has moved to full back to allow the introduction of a new half-back combination of Patrice Favre and Dominique Mazille, the 36-year-old scrum half.

Whether Lacroix has the key to unlock the French door remains to be seen. He bruised a hip playing in the 48-40 win over Munster but is keen to judge the quality now emerging from France's leading clubs — particularly since his year in England has engendered a new-found enthusiasm for things English. "I don't like the French mentality now," he said in a television interview this week. "When you succeed in France, people can be very jealous. Travelling in South Africa and England has opened my eyes."

If his experience today is anything like Keith Wood's against Munster, one of his compatriots will close an eye for him. A roundhouse punch by Mick Galwey terminated Wood's game early, though the Irishman is back to lead Harlequins in a pack that includes the American, Luke Gross, and Rory Jenkins, the England A flanker. Perhaps Galwey's action should have attracted the attention of Roger Pickering, the tournament director, who has asked that referees apply the law to players feeding scrums and lineouts.

"I have now watched 240 minutes of rugby and not one free kick was awarded for infringing the law regarding the put-in at the scrummage ... or throwing down the line of touch," Pickering said. "The scrum feed and the throw-in are so basic and visible, and also so fundamental to a fair contest for possession that I believe we should tighten up here."

Jeremy Guscott plays his first senior match since breaking his forearm during the British Isles tour of South Africa in July. The centre appears for Bath against the Scottish Borders at Hawick in one of the three cup games to be played in Scotland tomorrow; the fourth Sunday match is in Brive where Pontypridd, beaten by Bath a week ago, must somehow claim victory over the holders if they hope to progress to the knockout stages.

The chief executive of English Rugby Partnership, which runs the professional end of the club game, is to stand down at the end of the year. Kim Deshayes, at the helm during the long-running rift between the leading clubs and the RFU, wants to concentrate on other business interests.

BASKETBALL

Baker sits out start to season

By Nicholas Harling

THE one English player who, perhaps more than any other in recent years, has matched the American imports for skill will be sitting at home when the Budweiser League season opens this weekend.

The darting, dribbling expertise of Ronnie Baker will not be adorning the London Arena tomorrow when the Leopards begin their home programme with a game against Crystal Palace. "Ronnie wants to make continental money in England," Billy Mims, his coach, said.

"We have offered him more money than we have ever offered an English player but unfortunately in this country we still have a salary cap and budgetary restrictions."

Unlike Baker, who could play for the champions but will not, there are countless English players who would give everything to be participating at the highest domestic level. But for the continued influx of American players, recruited largely by compatriots like Mims, a Carolinian, they might be on court.

"My job is to win games," Mims said, "and that means putting the best players out on the floor."

The absence of Baker means that Mims will start with only one English player Jason Crump, the 6ft 9in centre, at Newcastle tonight.

Like the Leopards, the Towers have gone for continuity but have recruited Marco Baldi, the Italian centre, from Leverkusen in Germany. Off court, the continuity stops and eight clubs have new coaches.

EQUESTRIANISM

Bartle proves as good as his word on Britain debut

By Jenny MacArthur

THE Great Britain three-day-event team, boosted by excellent dressage scores from Chris Bartle, on Word Perfect, and William Fox-Pitt, on Cosmopolitan, stretched their lead over the United States to 5.4 points at the end of the rainswept second day of dressage at the Burghley Pedigree Chum Open European Three-Day-Event Championships yesterday.

David O'Connor, of the United States, has taken the individual lead on his Badminton winner, Custom Made, after an outstanding test — marred only by the flying changes — which has put him 0.6 points ahead of the defending champion, Lucy Thompson, of Ireland, on Welton Romance. O'Connor's test lifted the Mark Phillips-trained United States team ahead of New Zealand, in third, by 0.4 points.

With the standard conspicuously higher than on Thursday, Daisy Dick, of Britain, competing as an individual, rose to the occasion with a polished performance on Headley Bravo to move into eleventh. Other good tests came from Bettina Overesch-Boker, of Germany, on Watermill Stream, and Mark Todd, of New Zealand, on Broadcast News, who are fourth and sixth respectively.

Fox-Pitt might have challenged the leaders had he not been heavily penalised for his flying changes in an otherwise excellent test that left him in seventh place.

Bartle, making his team debut at 45, had more pressure on him than most. Best known for his sixth place in the 1984 Olympic dressage event — the highest ever British placing — Bartle is now Britain's dressage trainer. Yesterday, having found time to help Anne-Marie Evans and Dick, he had to prove that he could ride the test as well as he could teach it.

In Bartle's capable hands, the exuberant nine-year-old quickly settled to produce a relaxed test, with near-perfect flying changes, to take fifth place. Although relieved with his mark, Bartle, ever the perfectionist, was annoyed with himself for not producing a better medium trot.

Such concerns are likely to pale into insignificance today when riders negotiate Michael Tucker's 30-fence course, which will test to the limit the trust between horse and rider. While Mary King, lying tenth on Star Appeal, "rubbed her hands with glee" when she saw the course, few others share her enthusiasm.

O'Connor considers it tougher than Badminton this year. "It's very strong and tough right from the beginning, with lots of blind drops and fences like the Land Rover Crossing and first water, where the horse doesn't know what's on the other side until he's in the air. I'm just glad we're riding such experienced horses."

Blyth Tait, lying 21st after a spirited test from his Olympic champion, Ready Teddy, described it as "bigger than expected and a proper championship track".

Fox-Pitt, in common with many of the riders, is concerned about getting his horse to settle in time for fences three and four, the fearsome Leafpit fences. "If you don't get a good start, it could all be over very early," he said.

Thompson, whose Welton Romance injured a leg last year, may take the longer route at fence four to avoid an early mistake on a course which, she says, "doesn't allow you to switch off anywhere".

Todd, a dual Olympic champion and the most experienced rider in the 79-strong field, summed up the challenge. "It's a big course but, with the quality of the field, it's probably warranted. Now it's up to us to put the horses in the right place to jump the fences." As he is going last, he will have the advantage of knowing how the course is riding before he sets off.

RESULTS

BURGHLEY PEDIGREE CHUM OPEN EUROPEAN THREE-DAY-EVENT CHAMPIONSHIPS [illegible] Great Britain [illegible] Individual placings: [illegible] Other leading British placings: [illegible]

REMY DE LA MAUVINIERE

Norman plays an approach shot during his fine round off 66 yesterday

Beer garden detour takes Ballesteros over the limit

From Mel Webb at Saint-Nom-la-Breteche

SEVERIANO Ballesteros mounted a grandstand finish to his second round in the Lancôme Trophy yesterday, but not in the way he would have wished. His 65 on Thursday was reminiscent of the Ballesteros of old; it did not take him long to wipe the smile off his own face.

Although they were showing the odd signs of rust after their serene progress of the day before, the wheels just about kept turning on their axles for 14 holes. On the 15th, one of them fell off — bogey. On the 16th, another trundled into the gutter after unscheduled visits to all sorts of arboreal hazards when his second shot ricocheted 50 yards off a stake — another bogey. By now he was wobbling all over the shop, but nobody was really expecting the spectacular crash that befell him on the last.

As Ballesteros stood on the tee of the par-three 18th, he was still level par for the day, still six under for the tournament. The leaders remained in view, but in the course of the next few, grisly minutes he engineered his own downfall.

He drew out his five-iron and tried to cut the ball in. The shot failed in the grand manner, clattered into the green-side stand and skittered onwards and upwards, ending in the garden furniture outside the bar. Out of bounds; calamity.

Second time round he hit the same club, essentially the same shot, but this time he got it right. Two putts later he had a textbook par with his second ball, but the two shots he had lost earlier left him with a double-bogey five for a 73, only four under par.

Ballesteros's post-round mood was not as expansive as it had been the day before, but he managed to make positive noises about his prospects. "I played great today, as well as yesterday," he said, "but things will change — I'll make them change." How, exactly? "Simple — by shooting 64 tomorrow." We'll be watching you, Seve.

Meanwhile, as all but one of Ballesteros's seven Ryder Cup charges advanced into the third round — only Darren Clarke missed the cut, on four over par — the lead was taken up by Tony Johnstone, of Zimbabwe, who cut a joyful figure as he revelled in a rediscovered putting touch that got lost somewhere three years ago.

Johnstone had a 65 to reach halfway on 132, ten under par. Happy he might have been, but it is worth a small wager that sometime yesterday evening he might have got round to mulling over his closest pursuers, and thinking about one of them might have turned the smile just the tiniest bit sickly.

Greg Norman, the star turn of the week, was full value for his consultancy fee, or whatever it is they are calling appearance-money these days, as he produced more birdies in the closing stages of his round than there are fleas on a camel's hump.

Norman had started from the 10th and reached the turn in a comparatively low-profile 34. He started back the same way, but having birdied the 5th, his fourteenth, he took to the idea and indulged himself by picking up strokes everywhere until he ran out of holes to play.

The five-birdie sequence brought him back in 32 and round in 66 to share second place with Peter O'Malley, a stroke behind Johnstone. Then he gave his thoughts on leading the world rankings, which he has topped longer than anybody else. "I've come to the conclusion that it's easier to get to No 1 than it is to stay there," he said. Easy, is it? He must tell us how; then we can all be stinking rich.

DETAILS

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

LEADERS AFTER TWO ROUNDS: 132: A Johnstone (Zim) 67, 65. 133: G Norman (Aus) 67, 66; P O'Malley (Aus) 65, 68. 135: S Grappasonni (It) 66, 69. 136: L Westwood 68, 68; M O'Meara (US) 69, 67; E Romero (Arg) 68, 68; S Smriver (Ger) 71, 65; D Smyth 69, 67. 137: A Hunter 68, 69; C Suncoon (Sp) 71, 66; A Oldcorn 71, 66; S Field 69, 68; B Langer (Ger) 72, 65; D Gilford 69, 68; R Goosen (SA) 70, 67; P Price 69, 68. 138: D Howell 66, 72; S Ballesteros (Sp) 65, 73; P Mitchell 69, 69; M Jonzon (Swe) 67, 71. 139: R Claydon 69, 70; P-U Johansson (Swe) 71, 68; F Tunaud (Fr) 69, 70; J Lomas 69, 70; S Ames (Trin) 69, 70; P Hedblom (Swe) 71, 68; P Lawrie 68, 71; P Affleck 67, 72; P Eales 70, 69. 140: G Turner (NZ) 69, 71; M Roe 71, 69; G Evans 69, 71; G Clark 71, 69; J Sandelin (Swe) 70, 70; I Pyman 72, 68; R Russell 69, 71.

Milestone of player who shot to fame

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

CASES of the murder of professional footballers are surprisingly rare. The story of a possibly unique event, the shooting of an English footballer, is now the subject of a booklet. Tommy Ball was a Geordie centre half playing for Aston Villa and he was shot dead on Armistice Day 1923 by his landlord and neighbour, George Stagg.

Ball, then 23, was thought to have a great future in the game, but he was shot dead in a dispute about a dog and some chickens. Stagg, the killer, was an embittered ex-soldier and former policeman. He had served in Egypt and Sudan and was wounded in the calf during World War One. In the course of the dog-chicken argument, Stagg produced a shotgun and killed the footballer.

Stagg claimed that Ball was a wife-beater and had threatened to assault him, but these claims were not accepted by the court. He was found guilty and sentenced to death.

He appealed and escaped the death penalty, instead spending his life until 1966 in various asylums, including Broadmoor. The booklet that tells the story is *The Murder of Tommy Ball: An Aston Villa Tragedy* by Paul Lester, available for £3.95 from Protean Publications, 4 Milton Road, Bentley Heath, Solihull.

Regular hero

This column is delighted to bring news of a Tewin Irregulars player, Arthur Cuthbertson, who, aged 70, has just returned figures of nine for 38. He was playing for BBC Caversham against Whitchurch and the BBC managed 141 for seven (Cuthbertson DNB).

Whitchurch set off in good order in pursuit of this comparatively modest total and, at one stage, were 50 without loss. Even after losing their first wicket, they were well on course. Then Arthur set about them, but it all looked to be a gallant but unavailing effort for Whitchurch needed three to win off the last over with three wickets left. However, Arthur took his first hat-trick in 29 years with the BBC side and victory was theirs.

Aussie rules

An Australian was banned for life after refereeing an under-14 rugby match, in the course of which he knocked out a spectator. Arthur Thompson, the referee in question, said afterwards that it was high time that the game was cleaned up. He resented the abuse to which referees are subjected.

In the incident in question, Thompson reacted to criticism by taking off his shirt, declaring he was no longer a referee, seeking out his heckler and knocking him cold. Christopher Barrett then stepped in to the ensuing mêlée and escorted the referee to safety. Then he discovered that it was his brother-in-law that had been the victim and that, additionally, Thompson had called his sister a slut. So he went back and hit Thompson.

For this, Barrett was given a four-week ban. Thompson was banned from refereeing for life and for all rugby activities for ten years. "I will admit that my hit was harder than his hit," Thompson said. "A lot bloody harder. If that's all he's got, he's got to learn to fight."

The tribunal later defended Barrett's comparatively light sentence by saying that the provocation was great. "It's like your best mate running off with your missus," a spokesman explained.

☐ *Alexandra Paul used to play a lifeguard in the television series,* Baywatch. *Now she plans to take part in one of sport's tougher events, the Iron Man Triathlon in Hawaii, which involves an open-water swim of 2.4 miles, 112 miles on the bike and then running a full marathon for afters. "I've done 20-odd films, 20-odd TV movies," she said, "but 1997 will go down as the year I pushed my limits."*

Dead ringers

The San Francisco Giants baseball team was delighted to get permission from the city to move out of Candlestick Park and build a new stadium. The San Francisco 49ers American football team then wanted to do the same thing; at the moment, it shares Candlestick Park with the Giants.

The request was put to the city in a referendum and the dead themselves got up to vote. No fewer than 774 people with names identical to those of the dead took part in the ballot. The matter is now under investigation. The vote went in favour of the stadium by 1,400 votes.

It's him again

Diego has for some time been friends of the disgraced sprinter, Ben Johnson. Both men, of course, are famous for drugs. Now the two have fallen out. Johnson had the temerity to suggest that Diego had been keeping bad company, a matter which hindered his attempt to break away from drugs. Diego declared that Johnson should "shut his mouth".

Diego hopes to play for Boca Juniors this weekend. The Argentinian FA has lifted his suspension for yet another positive drugs test after Diego's lawyers questioned whether the sample had truly come from Diego. Diego likes to stand beside Johnson in the fond belief that it makes him look both uncontaminated and uncomplicated.

IN BRIEF

Scot lands eagle to share lead

DALE REID, of Scotland, completed a round of 67, five under par, for a share of the lead with Karrie Webb, the defending champion, from Australia, and Annika Sorenstam, of Sweden, in the opening round of the Safeco Classic women's golf tournament in Kent, Washington, in the United States yesterday.

It was an encouraging performance by the 38-year-old, who is trying to salvage a disappointing first full year on the US LPGA Tour. Reid collected three birdies and chipped in for an eagle at the par-five 5th. Sorenstam and Webb, the British Open champion, are vying for the lead in the 1997 money list. The leading trio are one shot ahead of a chasing pack of seven that includes Liselotte Neumann, of Sweden.

Jalabert cracks

Cycling: Yvon Ledanois, of France, won the 219-kilometre seventh stage of the Tour of Spain yesterday with a decisive attack on the final climb of the mountain stage from Guadix to the skiing resort of Sierra Nevada. Laurent Jalabert, of France, the world No 1, who had been the overall leader, struggled and lost the lead to Laurent Dufaux, of Switzerland. He leads by 13sec from Fernando Escartin, of Spain. Chris Boardman, of Great Britain, and Abraham Olano, of Spain, the pre-race favourite, both withdrew earlier in the stage.

Pole apart

Motorcycling: Michael Doohan, winner of 11 out of 12 races so far this season, took provisional pole position for the 500cc Catalunya Grand Prix near Barcelona. If he wins tomorrow, Doohan he will be the first rider to win 12 races in a season. Giacomo Agostini, of Italy, also won 11 in 1972.

Hurry back

Speedway: Paul Hurry has been called up by England after a gap of nearly two years. The King's Lynn rider replaces Kelvin Tatum, who has a back injury, in the international against Australia at Swindon tomorrow.

Seventh heaven

Hockey: England beat China 4-2 on penalties after a thrilling 4-4 draw to take seventh place in the women's junior World Cup in Seoul. Jennie Bimson scored twice as England came back from 3-0 down.

BOXING

Reid scare intensifies anxiety over TV lights

By Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent

SKY Television has been asked by the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) to cut down the heat generated by its lights over boxing rings. The matter assumes greater urgency after Robin Reid collapsed outside his dressing-room after he had defended his World Boxing Council super-middleweight title against Hassine Cherifi, of France, in Widnes on Thursday.

Reid was taken to Whiston hospital, where he was said to be suffering from exhaustion and dehydration. He was released yesterday afternoon.

According to the BBBC, the heat from the television lights had been excessive at many promotions. John Morris, the BBBC secretary, said that the board's doctors had been concerned about the heat for some time and that he had had talks with Christopher Brown, director of boxing at Sky, about reducing the power of the lights. Morris said: "Our doctors have been very concerned about the heat. It's not just because this was in a small hall. It has been very hot in the Nynex as well."

Frank Warren, the promoter, said afterwards that Reid had had to work hard to make the 12st limit for the bout; it is possible that part of the problem had been of Reid's own making.

Reid's next opponent will be Thulane Malinga. Since Reid had trouble getting past the long arm of Cherifi on Thursday night, he can expect problems from the even bigger South African.

Sky's lights will be present tonight when Geoff McCreesh, of Bracknell, defends his British welterweight title against Paul Ryan, of Hackney, at the London Arena. They are unlikely to be under the lights for the full 12 rounds, though, as both are punchers, and one is almost certain to fall. Ryan looks the most likely to go.

Since moving up to welterweight from light-welter, though, Ryan has looked stronger. If his stance-switching style can frustrate McCreesh and cause him to lose his composure as he has done once or twice in the past, there could be an upset. It would be a surprise, though, if the champion did not prove too strong for Ryan.

Reid: taken to hospital

ATHLETICS

Brown hopes to go distance

By David Powell, athletics correspondent

THE Great North Run has always been a match for the London Marathon in size, but it yearns for an Allister Hutton or Eamonn Martin, a men's race-winner of recent British vintage. It is 12 years since the Great North Run sampled the taste, so the arrival of Jon Brown in the North East yesterday provided a welcome bouquet for the race promoters. Will this be the year of Newcastle Brown?

Benson Masya, of Kenya, will be seeking his fifth win over the 13.1-mile course from Newcastle to South Shields tomorrow but, for all his experience, it is Brown, something of a novice at the distance, who starts favourite. What is likely to be the biggest field assembled for an annual mass road race in Britain — some 30,000 — will follow in the footsteps of an athlete on a new career path.

Brown is Europe's No 1 cross-country and 10,000 metres runner. However, recognising that the Africans are now too far ahead to be caught in the distance events on the track, he has turned to the marathon and is eight weeks into his build-up towards his debut at the distance in Chicago.

The 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney are his ultimate goal and he is pursuing the marathon because that is the only distance at which he feels he has a realistic chance of a medal. Brown's opponents tomorrow include Paul Evans, who will fear the Vancouver-based Briton more than anybody when he defends his Chicago Marathon title on October 19.

For Brown, the Great North Run represents his only challenging distance race before then. As much as anything, he will be hoping that a troublesome hip will take the journey in its stride. "It will be a good indicator to me as to how my training has gone, to what is under the hood, and to what I need to do in the next five weeks," Brown said.

Liz McColgan, seeking a third successive women's title, faces formidable opposition from Derartu Tulu, of Ethiopia, the world cross-country champion, Yvonne Murray, Marlene Renders and Sonia O'Sullivan.

Television viewers last saw McColgan when she was narrowly beaten in an epic London Marathon. In recent weeks McColgan has won three races — "Mickey-Mouse races" to use her words. Now cartoon time is over and the stage cleared for another dramatic plot. "It is one of the toughest fields I have faced," McColgan said.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Tigers aiming to surprise champions

THE leading clubs enter the Stones Premiership fray tomorrow with London Broncos entertaining Sheffield Eagles at the Stoop Memorial Ground in the afternoon and Castleford Tigers visiting Bradford Bulls in the evening.

Castleford, whose good late-season form enabled them to avoid relegation from the Super League, are approaching their quarter-final in confident mood with the champions having looked far from invincible in successive defeats by Wigan Warriors and London.

Stuart Raper, the Castleford coach, said: "They have lost their last two games and aren't on the roll they were on. If we can find some more chinks in their armour, I believe we can come up with a win."

SAILING

Dickson wins in thrilling finish

From Edward Gorman, sailing correspondent, in Porto Cervo

THE ILC Maxi fleet at the Maxi Yacht Rolex Cup put on a stunning display of close-quarters inshore racing yesterday, with the five 80-footers finishing a 3½-hour race seconds apart in glorious, sun-drenched conditions off the Sardinian coast.

It was the series leader, the Bruce Farr-designed *Sayonara*, owned by Larry Ellison but driven for much of the race by Chris Dickson, that finally prevailed after stealing a 40-second lead up the last beat in sight of the finish. In second place was Alberto Roemmers' light wind flyer, *Alexia*, just ahead of Hasso Plattner's *Morning Glory*, with Don Smith's *Falcon 2000* fourth and *Sagamore*, owned by Jim Dolan, fifth.

Dickson, who is here enjoying a week off from his Toshiba Whitbread campaign, had his work cut out to stay ahead in a southerly breeze that built from seven to 17 knots. "This is what yacht racing is all about," he said. "It was a tight race with five 80ft maxis doing ten knots around the race track within feet of each other all the way round. We were always in front, but only just."

The victory in the fifth of the seven-race series, which concludes tomorrow, was *Sayonara's* third and she remains the leader, but she can still be caught by either *Morning Glory*, which is second overall, or *Alexia*, in third place.

The ILC fleet has lost one of its number, George Coumantaros's German Frers-designed *Boomerang*, which hit the rocks at ten knots during the 105-mile offshore race on Wednesday. The impact, as the boat short-tacked up the shore between the islands, stopped *Boomerang* dead in her tracks, breaking ring frames above the keel, which moved about two inches. Coumantaros, who was helming, was flung against the wheel and broke his jaw.

A total of 27 yachts are taking part in the regatta, including three Wally boats, the 183ft schooner, *Adela*, and a handful of British-owned racers including Mike Slade's *Longobarda*, Johnnie Caulcutt's *Maxima*, Richard Loftus's Swan 65, *Desperado of Cowes*, and Irvine Laidlaw's Swan 60, *Highland Fling*.

In the 14-strong CHS-handicapped cruising division, Loftus was last on the water yesterday, but was corrected to first for the third time in a row and is leading the class comfortably. The overall leader in the IMS division is *Morning Glory*.

CRICKET

Grayson raises frustration level

By Simon Wilde

CARDIFF (third day of four): Essex, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 125 runs ahead of Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN experienced a day of barely suppressed frustration yesterday as the weather and Essex fed their anxiety to get the job done. The tension was only heightened by the fact that if they do win, and Kent draw, the destiny of the championship will be back in their own hands going into the final round of matches next Thursday.

They should get the desired result today but will cast nervous glances at the skies this morning. Rain cost them 23 overs yesterday — taking the total lost in the match to 50 — and would have been still more expensive but for the fast work of the Sophia Gardens groundstaff in mopping up the residue of an overnight downpour.

Today's local forecast is uncertain and Glamorgan have come to expect nothing from the weather. They have lost more time in the championship than most sides — almost 1,900 overs — and could claim that had the sun shone on them they would have won five games that actually ended in draws.

The tension surfaced as the crowd of 2,000 raucously urged on Waqar Younis every time he began a new spell. With a strong breeze blowing over his left shoulder, he responded best in mid-afternoon, removing Irani and Danny Law during a burst in which he was in masterful control of his late swing and yorker, if not his manners, pointing out Irani's way back to the pavilion. Later, one of the umpires, Ray Julian, saw fit to ask Maynard, the Glamorgan captain, to keep his players calm.

Essex were playing on their nerves, though, by batting with far more resolution than they had first time around. Four of the top six scored half-centuries — Prichard, Hussain, Irani and Grayson — which was only as it should have been, because the pitch still posed few problems, though Essex's early batting still did not suggest that they could save the game.

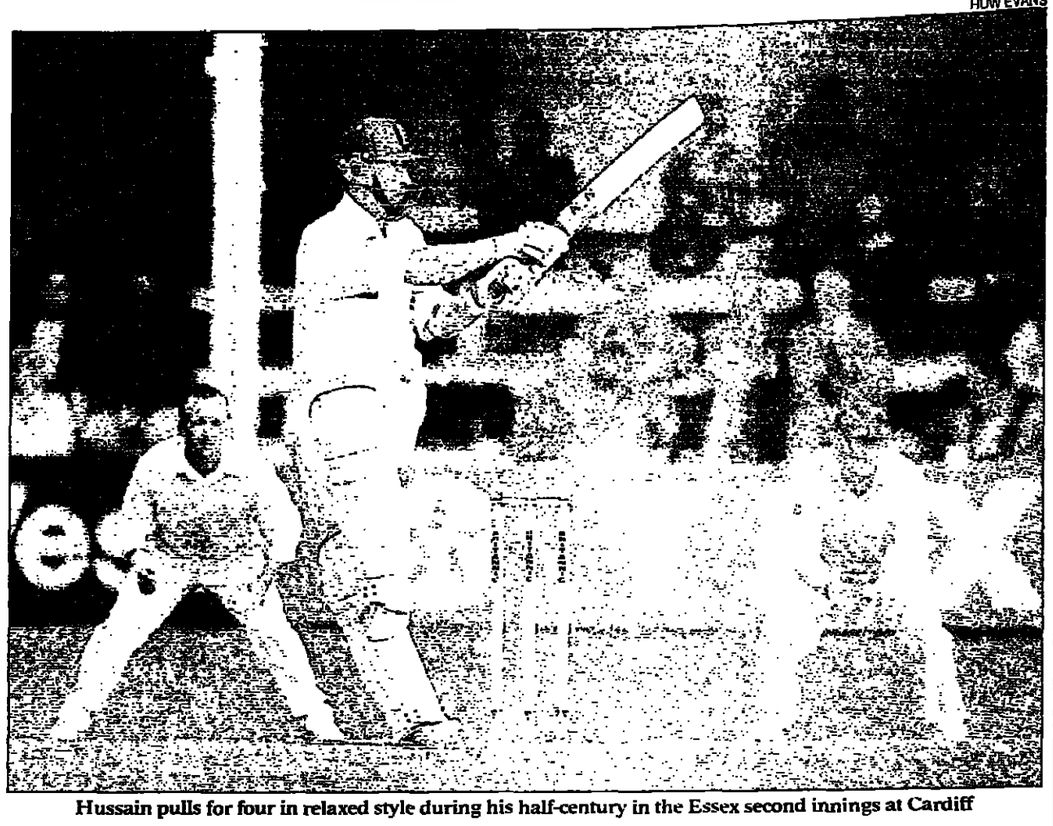
Prichard, two balls after reaching his fifty, chipped a long hop from Croft into the hands of deep square leg and ten balls after lunch Hussain played carelessly across the line. Watkin, the bowler, was suitably inspired in his next over to produce a delicious outswinger to Stuart Law, who could only edge it to the wicketkeeper.

Glamorgan celebrated this prized wicket as though they had won the match, but it was from this point that Essex really began to showd some spirit.

Grayson, an exiled Yorkshireman and an unheralded but considerable cricketer, was at the heart of the resistance. He and Irani stayed together for an hour and 40 minutes and added 71; he and Hyam, playing because of Rollins's long-standing hand injury, for 70 minutes, put on 62.

When Thomas had Hyam leg-before, his appeal encompassed the entire ground, and when Croft bowled Ilott, Essex's lead was exactly 100. Cowan hung on until the close, at which stage Grayson had batted nearly four hours for 83, taking his aggregate in the championship for the season to 892.

HUW EVANS



Hussain pulls for four in relaxed style during his half-century in the Essex second innings at Cardiff

Tufnell mops up after telling burst by Kallis

By Jack Bailey

LORD'S (third day of four): Nottinghamshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, need 127 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Middlesex

THERE was naught for Nottinghamshire's comfort at headquarters yesterday. A gusting wind, showers, Phil Tufnell and Jacques Kallis were their chief tormentors on a day when a long rearguard action was all that was left to them. They failed to avoid the follow-on and, with 220 needed to make Middlesex bat again, lost both openers for 47.

Guy Welton, playing in his fourth championship match, demonstrated a sound technique and Paul Johnson reined himself in but even on a pitch lacking pace, the odds favour Tufnell, and one hopes that Angus Fraser may yet pick up a wicket or two.

Despite a notable innings by Chris Tolley and a cultivated cameo from Wayne Noon, there was little hope that Nottinghamshire would recover significantly from the loss of four wickets for 116 overnight. Afzaal and Tolley added 32, but then Kallis embarked on a piercing spell that brought him the wickets of both and that of Franks.

In the space of 31 balls and at a cost of seven runs, he plucked the heart from what remained of the Nottinghamshire innings. After that, well though Noon counter-attacked and innocuously as Fraser bowled, it was only a matter of time.

Tufnell had entered the lists somewhat belatedly, but his second five-wicket haul of the championship season duly arrived when both Evans and Bowen were taken at short leg. Noon's stout-hearted effort ended with him stranded in mid-wicket, before 25 overs were lost to a downpour.

Peirce leads battle to avoid wooden spoon

By Pat Gibson

SOUTHAMPTON (third day of four): Hampshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 223 runs to beat Sussex

WHO needs two divisions in the county championship? The advocates of change argue that it would make the game more competitive yet there could hardly be a more fiercely fought contest than this one between two sides who would already be doomed to relegation if they were judged on their performances this season.

Sussex, beaten by some distance in seven of their past eight matches, are desperate to achieve only their second win to give themselves a chance of avoiding the wooden spoon. Hampshire were determined to avoid the ignominy of losing to Sussex when they set off last night in pursuit of a victory target of 260.

It has not been a pretty sight but what they have lacked in quality they have made up for in commitment, especially on the Sussex side. They looked down and out at the end of the first day but Hampshire let them back into the game with their feeble batting and yesterday Sussex continued to make them pay for it.

What was particularly heartening for Sussex after all that they have been through in recent times was that three of their younger players, Toby Peirce, James Carpenter and Amer Khan, were at the heart of the battle with career-best performances.

Peirce maintained his concentration through the morning showers to advance from his overnight 81 to a maiden century in just over 5½ hours off 303 balls with ten fours.

Carpenter made a more stylish 63 and Khan further exposed Hampshire's shortage of bowling resources with a brisk 52.

Boon's reign offering little encouragement

By Derek Hodgson

CHESTER-LE-STREET (third day of four): Somerset (21pts) beat Durham (5) by eight wickets

THE loyalty of Durham's followers is now legendary. There was an autumnal edge to the breeze, rain threatend periodically and Durham were facing yet another defeat. Yet a few hundred stalwarts were there, admittedly mostly to complain. On how many other grounds would they have even turned up? All there is to savour, in the sixth year in the first-class game, is the hope of finishing above Sussex and Derbyshire.

The two-year contract given to manager-captain David Boon can now be seen to be a mistake. That is not to disparage Boon's record, merely to point out that he is not a charismatic cricketer. He was a saviour for Australia, not a matchwinner. He has not been able to deliver the expected weight of runs nor the innovative leadership that could have lifted a dispirited side.

Somerset wrapped up this victory with almost insolent ease, winning before 2pm. Durham, 145 ahead overnight, needed another 60 from their last three wickets but their only real hope, Mike Foster, perished to Andrew Caddick's second ball.

The innings lasted only another 19 minutes, for three more runs, as Caddick and Graham Rose, as they had throughout the match, won more response from the pitch than their Durham counterparts.

With 149 needed to win, Somerset had 76 on the board, in 18 overs before Rob Turner was caught driving loosely. Piran Holloway soon followed, leaving Simon Ecclestone and Mark Lathwell looking sorry that they were not able to bat all day.

Delay for Strang helps Kent title bid

By Alan Lee

KENT'S prospects of winning the Axa Life League for the second time in three years were given an incalculable lift yesterday when Paul Strang was cleared to delay his return to Zimbabwe until after the decisive fixtures tomorrow.

Strang, whose leg spin has been so influential in Kent's one-day success this year, is due to start a Test match against New Zealand in Harare on Thursday and had originally been scheduled to fly home last week.

Kent begged a ten-day dispensation from the Zimbabwe Cricket Union, which continued to insist that Strang must catch a flight out of London tonight. Yesterday, however, Stuart Anderson, the Kent secretary, made a successful plea for an additional 48 hours, allowing Strang to play in the Sunday league decider at Headingley.

He now has a flight booked on Monday evening, which will allow him only 48 hours' preparation for the Test, but he will depart not knowing whether his wickets have earned him a new contract. Kent, who have tried unsuccessfully to contact their former overseas player, Carl Hooper, are undecided about their plans for next season.

Martin McCague, who has missed the past three weeks with a back injury, hopes to return tomorrow for Kent, who have the title in their own hands. Victory over Yorkshire will secure the trophy; anything less and Warwickshire can still deny them.

Warwickshire, two points behind, are at home to Gloucestershire. They will take the title if they win and Kent lose; it will also go to Edgbaston if they win and Kent are washed out.

Though the two teams would then be level on points, Warwickshire would have won 13 matches to Kent's 12.

TOP TWO

	P	W	L	T	Nr	Pts	Rr
Kent (10)	16	12	3	0	1	50	9.92
Warwicks (4)	16	12	4	0	0	48	12.99

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Donald's season ends in triumph

By Ivo Tennant

EDGBASTON (third day of four): Warwickshire (24pts) beat Gloucestershire (4) by an innings and 81 runs

TO AVOID being beaten by an innings, Gloucestershire's remaining six batsmen, one of whom was ill and another suffering from concussion, needed to make 113 runs. That or a thunderstorm. There were two stoppages for rain but the match was still over by lunch, Allan Donald taking four wickets on his last championship appearance of the season.

Donald will return to South Africa after Warwickshire's important Axa Life League match tomorrow, to prepare for his country's tour of Pakistan. The wickets he took, one bowled and three to catches by fielders encircling the bat, were enough to bring about victory. Hewson, Gloucestershire's young batsman, was too ill to open in either innings.

For the time being, Warwickshire are in third place in the championship table. If they beat Gloucestershire tomorrow and Kent lose at Headingley, they will have won the Sunday league and they were, of course, in the NatWest Trophy final. So they have had quite a season.

Donald had Davis caught at short leg with the opening ball of the day. There followed a 40-minute break for rain before, with his first over upon resumption, he had Ball taken at cover, the shot, as with so many by Gloucestershire in this match, a poor one. Russell, forced to retire after he was struck on the back of the helmet the previous evening, came out again and finished with the highest score of the innings.

He reached his half-century through cutting the ball over the slips to third man. Before he was well-caught by Piper, diving one-handed to his right, to take a ball that nipped back, Russell reached 1,000 runs for the season.

Donald then knocked out Smith's off stump to finish with figures of four for 63.

CRICKET: POSITIVE APPROACH SETS UP TENSE FINISH AGAINST CHAMPIONSHIP RIVALS

Lehmann, who shared in Yorkshire's pivotal stand with Byas, hits a boundary off Strang, the Kent leg spinner. Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

Yorkshire seize title initiative

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

HEADINGLEY (third day of four): Yorkshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 228 runs ahead of Kent

IF THIS tense, oscillating match was typical of the county championship, rather than a shining exception, there would be no need for the soul-searching debates about structure that will conclude at Lord's on Monday. There can surely have been no better game all season and, on a day shortened by 30 overs, Yorkshire tenaciously reclaimed the high ground.

Facing a deficit of 62 on a pitch with occasional tendencies to treachery, it was no mean achievement to bat through the day and establish a lead of 228. Darren Lehmann made 68, oozing class and composure, and for the second successive day there was a resolute captain's innings to admire, this time 74 in four hours from David Byas.

It was a chastening day for Kent and, in one important regard, for England. The Kent attack lost its venom and, by tea, looked threadbare. Afterwards, as Steve Marsh went to hospital for an x-ray on a damaged — but not broken — left thumb, they also lost Dean Headley, who retired to rest a nagging hip condition.

This, remarkably, made Headley the third of England's five chosen seam bowlers for the West Indies tour to suffer injuries in the four days since the party was announced. Ashley Cowan reported shoulder trouble on Wednesday and, a day later, Darren Gough sustained hamstring damage to add to his previously injured left knee. There are a lot of tired jokes about unfit England bowlers but, right now, they will not seem very amusing to the selectors.

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Bt	Bl	Pts
Kent	16	7	4	4	43	56	228
Glamorgan	16	6	2	7	40	53	216
Warwicks	16	7	2	7	30	49	214
Yorkshire	16	6	2	7	39	53	209
Glouces	16	6	5	5	33	56	192

Including latest round of matches.

The first surprising aspect yesterday was that play began on time after heavy overnight rain. Only six overs were possible, in two brief sessions, before lunch, but Yorkshire used them positively and the opening stand had almost cleared the shortfall when McGrath fell in the tenth over.

His dismissal, to a ball from Igglesden that kept horribly low, aroused fears that this pitch might disintegrate. Instead, it remained merely deceptive. Kent put too few balls in the right area. If Silverwood and Hutchison bowl as they did in the first innings, it might look different today.

Vaughan played pleasantly for his 42 and looked mortified to mistime a pull and offer a looping return catch to Ealham. He was not the last to make this mistake, though, and it was more a reflection of conditions than carelessness.

The pivotal stand, restoring Yorkshire's ability to dictate terms, was that between the left-handers. Lehmann has quickly won the trust of his captain, as denoted by their conferences in the field, and together they frustrated Kent with responsible, though never negative, cricket. Runs continued to come at four an over, the average for this match, but there was none of the frenetic batting that coloured Yorkshire's first innings.

They had added 115 when Lehmann, aiming to leg, was acrobatically caught-and-bowled off a leading edge in Fleming's first over after tea. The innings now declined steadily, Byas managing only 16 from 20 overs after the interval and no one suggesting that they could keep him company for long.

White, Parker and Blakey were undone by the pitch and Byas's checked drive to cover was not quite as acquiescent as it looked. Gough hobbled in with a runner and offered some one-legged aggression, but the resourceful Ealham claimed his fourth wicket of the day and his eighth of the game before the weather closed in again. It promises to be an epic final day.

Keedy main beneficiary of Surrey's sorry surrender

By Michael Henderson

THE OVAL (third day of four): Lancashire (24pts) beat Surrey (3) by an innings and 55 runs

A MATCH of mind-numbing mediocrity ended, with a day to spare, when Lancashire rolled over Surrey for a second time yesterday as easily as they had on Thursday. If Surrey's players feel no shame at this disgraceful effort — "performance" is much too dignified a noun — then Dave Gilbert, their coach, should tell them in language that burns their ears. Then the committee should burn his.

It is not as if Lancashire are cocks of the walk. They have had another poor season, and the fact that Gary Keedy, a slow left-arm bowler of unproven quality, took ten wickets in this match, the last five in seven overs after tea yesterday, offers the Surrey batting no favours. From first ball to last they were outplayed and such was their indifference to the proceedings that it was hard to know if they cared.

The most sorry performer was Hollioake minor, whose 26 runs in the match represented 75 fewer than he conceded in the 18 lamentable overs he bowled. In his case it is almost certainly a case of *"How ya gonna keep them down on the farm now that they've seen Parce?"*

At this delicate stage of his career, with all eyes on him, a spot of humility might be in order. He is not a world-beater yet, and he owes Surrey a good deal more than he seems prepared to give.

Not that Hollioake major was much better. He contributed 22 runs and lost his off stump yesterday, driving over a half-volley. The tabloids have anointed him, unlucky chap, but a single championship century this season tells a different story to the one we have all been reading. He does not lack talent. It's just a pity he keeps it to himself so often.

Keedy: career-best return

Keedy, who took four wickets in Surrey's first innings, returned career-best figures of six for 79 when they followed on 322 behind. Only Butcher and Ratcliffe, who fell ten runs short of a century, showed much fight and the manner of Ratcliffe's dismissal, bowled round his legs by a full toss as he swept, seemed appropriate to the day.

It is high time everybody at Surrey grew up. Their private bleating at unfavourable press comment is as unappealing as the public posturing of their "stars", which has angered so many people in the game. They think the whole world is against them, and they are not far out. But, darlings, whose fault is that?

☐ James Bovill, the Hampshire fast bowler, has been forced to retire at the age of 26 because of a long-term back injury. Hampshire have also released Chetan Patel, the Oxford Blue, Matt Swarbrick and Glyn Treagus.

Millns turns rustic as derby fails to set pulses racing

By Barney Spender

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 189 runs behind Leicestershire

ON DAYS like this the argument for promotion and relegation in the county championship begins to look an awful lot stronger. Two sides, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, both in the lower middle reaches of the table, with little to play for except professional pride going through the motions.

Even the derby element to the match, dubbed by the local wits as Rangers-Celtic of the East Midlands, has failed to set the pulses racing.

For all that, credit is due to Leicestershire, who showed a greater hunger for the contest and played themselves into a position that ought to see them record their fourth championship win of the season. Their total of 557 was their highest of the summer and their lead of 225 should allow them to attack today.

They may have passed on their championship crown but Leicestershire remain one of the hardest teams in the country to beat, their only defeat coming, surprisingly, at the hands of Sussex in a rain-affected match at Eastbourne.

Partly, their season has foundered on the weather and, with the loss yesterday morning of 41 overs, they have now lost a total of 2134 overs this season, the highest in the country and the equivalent of 21 days' cricket.

When play did get underway, Jon Dakin and David Millns continued where they had left off the previous evening, although they were helped by some wayward early bowling, especially from Curran, who went for 19 off his first seven balls.

Millns: huge six

Dakin played fluently to pass the 150 mark and, when Bailey dropped him at slip straight after, he marched steadily towards a double-century. He was undone, however, 10 runs short when he pushed forward lazily at the left-arm spin of Davies and was smarly stumped by Ripley. It was the shot of a tired man and ended an innings that had spanned 280 balls and included 28 fours and two sixes.

It also ended a seventh-wicket partnership of 207 with Millns who duly completed his third first-class century and his second this season. He had played carefully to reach three figures but he immediately reverted to the rustic as he hit Davies for a huge six over mid-wicket that cleared the scoreboard and landed in the bowling greens beyond.

Once Davies and Brown had finally taken the last three wickets, Matthew Brimson gave Leicestershire further hope of victory by removing Fordham with his first ball.

Derbyshire restore pride in fightback

By Richard Hobson

WORCESTER (third day of four): Derbyshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 33 runs ahead of Worcestershire

AFTER two days when little had gone right, Derbyshire could take satisfaction from a resolute performance yesterday. Not only did they avoid the ignominy of an innings defeat, but they also averted the need for an extra half-hour against a Worcestershire side that appeared to have taken victory for granted.

Harris, the nightwatchman who had not faced a ball on Thursday evening, set the tone with a career-best 36 when play resumed. The home side fielded poorly, dropping four catches in all, and struggled to contain a lively ninth-wicket stand between Krikken and Lacey in the final half-hour.

There was assistance for the spinners and Hick, without a championship wicket this season before Thursday, has five for the match so far. Yet the turn was slow and Illingworth in particular dropped too short too often. Tweats and Barnett profited handsomely during a partnership of 156 in 43 overs.

Tweats hit 15 fours in a championship-best 83 before being bowled around his legs by Illingworth but Barnett continued to attack anything wide outside his off stump during his 86. However, Moody was rewarded when Leatherdale, at silly mid-off, pouched both Clarke and Barnett in the same Hick over before tea.

Cassar struck Illingworth onto the pavilion roof with his second scoring stroke but fell attempting to pull Hick.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Durham v Somerset

CHESTER-LE-STREET (third day of four): Somerset (24pts) beat Durham (-6) by eight wickets

DURHAM: First Innings 220 (J E Morris 79)

Second Innings

J J B Lewis c Turner b Mushtaq	50
S Hutton c Turner b Rose	20
J E Morris c Turner b Caddick	7
*D C Boon lbw b Caddick	10
R M S Weston c Ecclestone b Caddick	1
†M P Speight lbw b Mushtaq	1
M J Foster c Trescothick b Caddick	27
M M Betts lbw b Mushtaq	1
J Boiling not out	0
S J E Brown lbw b Rose	1
A Walker lbw b Rose	0
Extras (b 4, lb 7, nb 6)	17
Total	135

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-46, 2-81, 3-99, 4-99, 5-101, 6-101, 7-109, 8-122, 9-135.

BOWLING: Caddick 21-7-60-4; Rose 13.5-2-43-2; Mushtaq Ahmed 15-10-4-3; Bowler 6-3-17-0.

SOMERSET: First Innings 217 (M N Lathwell 57)

Second Innings

†R J Turner c Lewis b Foster	41
P C L Holloway c Speight b Foster	33
S C Ecclestone not out	54
M N Lathwell not out	20
Extras (nb 4)	4
Total (2 wkts)	152

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-76, 2-87.

BOWLING: Brown 10-0-52-0; Betts 5-1-21-0; Foster 11-1-48-2; Walker 6-1-24-0; Boiling 1-0-2-0; Morris 1-0-1-0.

Umpires: J D Bond and J W Holder.

Glamorgan v Essex

CARDIFF (third day of four): Essex, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 128 runs ahead of Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN: First Innings 361 (H Morris 82, M P Maynard 71, D R Law 4 for 69)

ESSEX: First Innings 169 (S G Law 85)

Second Innings

*P J Prichard c James b Croft	61
D D J Robinson c Maynard b Watkin	0
*N Hussain b Watkin	53
S G Law c Shaw b Watkin	0
R C Irani b Waugh	50
A P Grayson not out	53
D R Law b Waugh	1
†B J Hyam lbw b Thomas	26
M C Ilott b Croft	7
A P Cowan not out	13
Extras (b 9, lb 16, nb 2)	27
Total (8 wkts)	320

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-104, 3-123, 4-130, 5-211, 6-215, 7-277, 8-292

BOWLING: Waqar Younis 18-1-72-2; Watkin 22-8-58-3; Croft 31-6-86-2; Cosker 11-3-25-0; Thomas 18-0-54-1.

Bonus points: Glamorgan 8, Essex 4

Umpires: J H Harris and R Julian

Hampshire v Sussex

SOUTHAMPTON (third day of four): Hampshire, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 223 runs to beat Sussex

SUSSEX: First Innings 114 (S D Udal 4 for 17, S M Milburn 4 for 38)

Second Innings

M T E Peirce lbw b Renshaw	104
*†P Moores lbw b Milburn	21
N R Taylor c Aymes b Renshaw	52
K Greenfield c Maru b Milburn	11
K Newell c Hayden b Renshaw	44
J R Carpenter c Kendall b Hayden	63
P W Jarvis c White b Milburn	6
J J Bates c Maru b Stephenson	12
A A Khan run out	52
M A Robinson lbw b Hayden	3
R J Kirtley not out	7
Extras (b 4, lb 5, w 2, nb 4)	15
Total	390

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35, 2-114, 3-142, 4-236, 5-245, 6-252, 7-287, 8-336, 9-348

BOWLING: Milburn 32-3-106-3; Renshaw 27-3-10-52-3; Udal 44-12-98-0; Maru 21-6-30-0; Stephenson 25-5-78-1; Hayden 6-0-17-2.

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings 245 (G W White 80, P R Whitaker 73; A A Khan 4 for 79, R J Kirtley 4 for 41).

Second Innings

J S Laney not out	24
M L Hayden not out	10
Extras (lb 1, nb 2)	3
Total (no wkt)	37

BOWLING: Jarvis 5-0-15-0; Kirtley 5-2-14-0; Khan 2-1-2-0, Robinson 1-0-5-0.

Bonus points: Hampshire 5, Sussex 4

Umpires: J C Balderstone and R A White

Middlesex v Nottinghamshire

LORD'S (third day of four): Nottinghamshire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, need 127 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Middlesex

MIDDLESEX: First Innings 430 for 8 dec (O A Shah 104 not out, J C Pooley 98, M R Ramprakash 55)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings

M P Dowman lbw b Tufnell	28
R T Robinson c Brown b Tufnell	35
G E Welton c Brown b Tufnell	14
*P Johnson c Pooley b Kallis	1
U Afzaal b Kallis	14
C M Tolley c Brown b Kallis	42
†W M Noon run out	39
P J Franks c Gatting b Kallis	1
K P Evans c Shah b Tufnell	13
R T Bates not out	8
M N Bowen c Nash b Tufnell	3
Extras (lb 8, nb 4)	12
Total (91.1 overs)	210

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-68, 2-72, 3-73, 4-91, 5-123, 6-148, 7-152, 8-179, 9-207

BOWLING: Fraser 14-7-24-0; Hewitt 17-5-48-0, Tufnell 32.1-6-61-5, Kallis 18-5-39-4; Bloomfield 4-1-12-0, Ramprakash 6-3-18-0

Second Innings

M P Dowman c Brown b Tufnell	13
R T Robinson lbw b Bloomfield	19
G E Welton not out	33
*P Johnson not out	18
Extras (b 3, lb 3, nb 4)	10
Total (2 wkts)	93

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-30, 2-47

BOWLING: Fraser 9-4-16-0; Hewitt 5-0-20-0; Bloomfield 7-3-13-1, Kallis 6-3-14-0; Tufnell 12-3-24-1

Bonus points: Middlesex 7, Nottinghamshire 3

Umpires: B Leadbeater and G I Burgess

Northamptonshire v Leicestershire

NORTHAMPTON (third day of four): Northamptonshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 189 runs behind Leicestershire

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 332 (D Ripley 92, A L Penberthy 66, J Ormond 6 for 68)

Second Innings

A Fordham lbw b Brimson	15
R R Montgomerie not out	19
S A J Boswell not out	2
Total (1 wkt)	36

FALL OF WICKET: 1-27

BOWLING: Millns 3-0-10-0; Ormond 2-1-14-0; Pierson 3-0-11-0; Brimson 2-2-1-1

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

V J Wells b Taylor	21
D L Maddy c Bailey b Boswell	29
I J Sutcliffe c Curran b Brown	61
*J J Whitaker c Ripley b Boswell	0
B F Smith lbw b Brown	20
J M Dakin st Ripley b Davies	130
†P A Nixon lbw b Davies	20
D J Millns c Ripley b Davies	121
A R K Pierson b Brown	10
J Ormond lbw b Davies	6
M T Brimson not out	4
Extras (b 5, lb 12, nb 24)	41
Total	557

Score at 120 overs: 476-7

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44, 2-67, 3-67, 4-120, 5-183, 6-271, 7-476, 8-531, 9-531

BOWLING: Taylor 17-0-92-1; Boswell 19-3-85-2; Brown 52.3-14-142-3; Davies 34-9-113-4; Pungenny 12-0-48-0; Bailey 3-0-12-0; Curran 7-0-49-0

Bonus points: Northamptonshire 8, Leicestershire 8

Umpires: M J Kitchen and R Palmer

Surrey v Lancashire

THE OVAL (third day of four): Lancashire (24pts) beat Surrey (3) by an innings and 55 runs

LANCASHIRE: First Innings 592 for 4 dec (N T Wood 155, M A Atherton 149, N H Fairbrother 112 not out, G D Lloyd 65 not out, J P Crawley, 64)

SURREY: First Innings

D J Bicknell lbw b Watkinson	74
M A Butcher c Fairbrother b Watkinson	49
J D Ratcliffe c Watkinson b Keedy	12
†A J Stewart c Hegg b Keedy	73
A D Brown b Watkinson	0
*A J Hollioake c Lloyd b Keedy	14
B C Hollioake c Wood b Keedy	19
I D K Salisbury b Martin	1
J E Benjamin c Fairbrother b Martin	0
R M Amin c Hegg b Martin	2
M P Bicknell not out	14
Extras (lb 5, lb 6, nb 2)	13
Total (84.5 overs)	270

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-105, 2-119, 3-171, 4-171, 5-204, 6-245, 7-254, 8-254, 9-255

BOWLING: Martin 12.5-4-40-3; Chapple 7-2-18-0; Ridgway 5-1-20-1; Keedy 25-7-94-4; Watkinson 25-7-75-3

Second Innings

D J Bicknell lbw b Martin	1
M A Butcher lbw b Watkinson	52
J D Ratcliffe b Keedy	90
†A J Stewart lbw b Watkinson	2
A D Brown c Lloyd b Keedy	47
*A J Hollioake b Chapple	9
B C Hollioake c Fairbrother b Keedy	8
I D K Salisbury c Lloyd b Keedy	12
M P Bicknell lbw b Keedy	3
J E Benjamin not out	24
R M Amin lbw b Keedy	0
Extras (b 3, lb 12)	15
Total	267

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-89, 3-97, 4-173, 5-184, 6-212, 7-238, 8-242, 9-257

BOWLING: Martin 13-3-58-1; Chapple 11-1-48-1; Keedy 29.4-6-79-6; Watkinson 16-0-53-2; Ridgway 2-0-14-0

Umpires: A Clarkson and P Willey

Warwickshire v Gloucestershire

EDGBASTON (third day of four): Warwickshire (24pts) beat Gloucestershire (4) by an innings and 81 runs

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings 418 (N M K Smith 148, D R Brown 79, N V Knight 71, D L Hemp 66; J Lewis 6 for 69, A M Smith 4 for 70)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 113 (N M K Smith 4 for 32)

Second Innings

M G N Windows c Piper b Welch	20
T H C Hancock b Giles	41
R I Dawson c Ostler b Smith	5
S Young c Ostler b Giles	25
*M W Alleyne b Smith	4
†R C Russell c Piper b Donald	67
M C J Ball c Knight b Donald	23
R P Davis c sub b Donald	3
J Lewis not out	8
A M Smith b Donald	2
D R Hewson absent	0
Extras (b 13, lb 3, w 2, nb 8)	26
Total	224

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-71, 3-73, 4-77, 5-154, 6-186, 7-191, 8-222, 9-224

BOWLING: Donald 15.5-6-63-4, Brown 16-7-23-0; Welch 4-1-17-1, Giles 19-6-48-2; Smith 14-2-57-2

Umpires: G Sharp and N T Plews

Worcestershire v Derbyshire

WORCESTER (third day of four): Derbyshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 33 runs ahead of Worcestershire

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings 554 for 8 dec (W P C Weston 188, T M Moody 101, D A Leatherdale 93)

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings 223 (M E Cassar 76 not out)

Second Innings

S Stubbings lbw b Shenyar	22
A J Harris c Illingworth b Shenyar	36
D G Cork b Hick	9
T A Tweats b Illingworth	83
K J Barnett c Leatherdale b Hick	86
V P Clarke c Leatherdale b Hick	37
M E Cassar lbw b Hick	8
†K M Krikken not out	47
*P A J DeFreitas c Lampitt b Shenyar	1
S J Lacey not out	19
Extras (lb 2, w 4, nb 10)	16
Total (8 wkts)	364

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-62, 2-71, 3-73, 4-229, 5-283, 6-284, 7-293, 8-294

BOWLING: Lampitt 10-1-55-0, Haynes 8-1-51-0; Shenyar 17-6-63-3; Hick 26-6-70-4; Illingworth 23-7-46-1, Moody 5-0-30-0; Leatherdale 13-5-42-0

Bonus points: Worcestershire 8, Derbyshire 2

Umpires: D R Shepherd and A G T Whitehead

Yorkshire v Kent

HEADINGLEY (third day of four): Yorkshire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, are 228 runs ahead of Kent

YORKSHIRE: First Innings 312 (D S Lehmann 87, D Byas 59, D Gough 58; M A Ealham 4 for 62, A P Igglesden 3 for 67)

Second Innings

A McGrath lbw b Igglesden	32
M P Vaughan c and b Ealham	42
*D Byas c Smith b Strang	74
D S Lehmann c and b Fleming	68
C White b Igglesden	11
B Parker c Igglesden b Ealham	29
†R J Blakey lbw b Ealham	2
D Gough b Ealham	19
C E W Silverwood not out	1
R D Stemp not out	3
Extras (b 5, lb 11)	16
Total (8 wkts)	290

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-53, 2-90, 3-205, 4-222, 5-260, 6-266, 7-272, 8-286

BOWLING: Headley 13-1-67-0; Igglesden 14-0-56-2; Fleming 18-5-56-1; Ealham 13.1-0-41-4, Strang 14-3-50-1; Wells 1-0-5-0

KENT: First Innings 374 (S A March 84, T R Ward 56, M V Fleming 53; C E W Silverwood 7 for 93).

Bonus points: Yorkshire 7, Kent 8

Umpires: H D Bird and B J Meyer

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE. Wednesday: Boston 5 New York Yankees 2, Chicago White Sox 3 Milwaukee 1, Oakland 3 Toronto 2, Seattle 10 Detroit 0. Thursday: Oakland 8 Toronto 7, Baltimore 2 New York Yankees 14, Chicago White Sox 7 Cleveland 5, Texas 7 Minnesota 6, Anaheim 2 Kansas City 4; Seattle 1 Detroit 3

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Wednesday. Colorado 9 Houston 7 San Francisco 7 St Louis 6 (10inns), Cincinnati 1 Chicago Cubs 3 Montreal 5 Pittsburgh 4 New York Mets 10 Philadelphia 2, Los Angeles 0 Atlanta 7, San Diego 4 Florida 3. Thursday: Philadelphia 3 San Francisco 5, New York Mets 9 Montreal 5

BOWLS

LAMPETER: Welsh Women's Bowling Association national championships: Finals: Two-wood singles: L Evans (Port Talbot) bt B Morgan (Llandrindod Wells) 13-12. Four-wood singles: B Morgan (Llandrindod Wells) bt A Lewis (Saundersfoot) 21-16. Under-25 singles: P Summerfield (Llandrindod Wells) bt W Price (Llandrindod Wells) 21-17. Pairs: M Davies and D Rowlands (Llandrindod Wells) bt Z Silvorthorne and J Hine (Crosswoodland) 21-12. Triples: Port Talbot (L Evans, M Mount Pleasant (J de Souza) 14-11. Fours: Llandrindod Trunstone bt Port Talbot (L Evans) 22-21. Double rink: Llandrindod Wells bt Sophia Gardens (Cardiff) 45-40

BOXING

WIDNES: World Boxing Council super-middleweight championship (12rnds): R Reid (Runcorn holder) bt H Chalk (Fr) pts. British and Commonwealth flyweight championship (12rnds): A Lewis (Bury British holder) bt P Culshaw (Liverpool Commonwealth holder) rsc 8th. Featherweight (8rnds): P Ndou (SA) bt N Leake (Wakefield) rsc 2nd. Super-bantamweight (8rnds): T Mulholland (Liverpool) bt C Williams (Merthyr Tydfil) pts. Super-middleweight (8rnds): R Woodhall (Telford) bt B Barber (US) rsc 3rd. Middleweight (8rnds): A Ennis-Bull (Fr) bt S Goodwin (Shifnal) rsc 3rd. Featherweight (4rnds): M Gomez (Manchester) bt W Jones (Plymouth) rsc 3rd

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Third day of four: Bristol: Worcestershire 542-9 dec and 86-1 (A Hulcez 58 not out); Gloucestershire 283 and 356 (C M W Read 148 not out, C M Gupta 60, M J Rawnsley 4-99). Worcestershire win by nine wickets. Second day of three: Taunton: Somerset 195 and 87 (K P Dutch 4-11). Middlesex 320 (A W Laxman 82 not out). Middlesex win by an innings and 38 runs. Final day of three: Bournemouth Sports Club: Kent 193 and 234. Hampshire 257 and 176-4 (G R Trougu, 86). Hampshire win by six wickets. Trent Bridge, Nottinghamshire: 218 and 313-7 dec (A G Wharf 82, P R Pollard 77). Sussex 300-7 dec and 229-9 (M Newell 51). Match drawn. Ilkeston Wardens: Warwickshire 356 and 51-1. Northamptonshire 157 (T M B Bailey 57 not out, D A Alfree 5-50) and 287 (P J Innes 76, A J Swann 65, C P Swann 56, M A Sheikh 5-46). Warwickshire win by nine wickets

TOUR MATCH (one day): Harare: Zimbabwe County District 190-6 (G Renne 74). New Zealand 194-5 (A Huckle 4-38)

FOOTBALL

SCOTTISH COCA-COLA CUP: Semi-final draw: Dunfermline v Celtic (October 14, Ibrox Park, 7.45). Aberdeen v Dundee Utd (October 15, Tynecastle, 7.45)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Queen's Park Rangers 0 Norwich City 1

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Second division: Rochdale 0 Rotherham United 5

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Postponed: Kings Heath v Dawd Lloyd AFC

FA CARLSBERG VASE: First qualifying round: Brockenhurst 1 Cowes Sports 2

FA YOUTH CUP: First qualifying round: Histon 7 Tredale 2; Great Wakering 4 Ipswich 0, Herne Bay 1 Sutton 2; Horsham YMCA 0 Eastbourne Town 7, Chichester 1 Crawley 3; Abingdon Town 7 Witney 2; Alconbury Town 1 Tooting and Mitcham 2. Preliminary round replay: Lincoln 1 Scunthorpe 2

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Harrow Hill 3 Shortwood 2

WORLD CUP: Asian qualifying zone: Final round: Group B: South Korea 2 Uzbekistan 1 (in Seoul); United Arab Emirates 4 Kazakhstan 0 (in Abu Dhabi)

BRAZILIAN CHAMPIONSHIP: Americana Natal 2 Cruzeiro 1, Atletico Mineiro 2 Santos 1, Bahia 2 Parana 1, Corinthians 3 Vitoria 1, Coritiba 3 Gremio 2, Criciuma 2 Sport Recife 0, Flamengo 2 Flumminense 1, Goias 2 Guarani 1, Internacional 0 Juventude 1, Portuguesa 2 Sao Paulo 1, Vasco da Gama 6 Uniao Sao João 0

DUTCH LEAGUE: Heerenveen 0 Feyenoord 0

FRENCH LEAGUE: Chateauroux 2 Rennes 0

PORTUGUESE SUPERCUP: FC Porto 1 Boavista 0 (Boavista win 2-1 on agg)

EGYPT: Under-17 World Cup: Group B: Mali 3 Mexico 1, Spain 13 New Zealand 0. Group C: Brazil 3 Oman 1, United States 4 Austria 0

GOLF

BURNHAM AND BERROW, Somerset: Men's home amateur internationals: Scotland 9 Wales 6 (Scotland names first). Foursomes: S Mackenzie and D Patrick bt M Pilkington and R Price 2 and 1, G Lowson and S Horne lost to J Donaldson and D Parke 4 and 3, A Turnbull and A Farmer bt T Taylor and O Pughe 5 and 4, L Kelly and G Fox bt M Smith and D Harris 5 and 4; C Watson and S Cairns halved with N Edwards and I Campbell. Singles: Lowson lost to Donaldson 6 and 5, G Rankin lost to Parke 3 and 2, Mackenzie bt Pilkington 2 holes, Patrick lost to Price 2 and 1; Turnbull bt Taylor 3 and 2, Farmer bt Edwards 6 and 5, Fox halved with Harris. Cairns lost to Campbell 4 and 3, Kelly bt Smith 2 holes; Watson bt C Rees 3 and 2). England 5 Ireland 0 (England names first). Foursomes: G Wolstenholme and J Rose bt J Fanagan and N Fox 3 and 2, P Rowe and M Blackley bt K Kearney and J Morris 4 and 3, L Donald and M Reynard bt G McGimpsey and B O'Neill 4 and 3, C Edwards and S Pridgeon bt E Power and A McCormack 3 and 2, A Wainwright and K Wallbank bt A Morrow and D Dunne 2 and 1. Ireland 8½ Wales 6½

LAHINCH, Ireland: Women's home amateur internationals: Scotland 5½ Wales 3½; Ireland 3 England 6

BENTON HALL, Clubhaus Seniors Classic: Leading first-round scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 66: N Wood. 67: G Hunt, A Garrido (Sp). 68: R Campingnoli (It), M Gregson, T Horton, L Hagger. 69: D Jones. 70: H Hugo (SA), S Weir, A O'Connor. 71: J Bjornestad (Swe), H Fairlie, S Haggett (Norway) (US) E Polland. 72: J Foune (SA), G Burroughs, J Richardson, A Croce (It), F Whitfield, S Adwick, N Ratcliffe (Aus)

SUTTON, Massachusetts: CVS Charity Classic: Leading first-round scores: 64: D Rummells, C Rymer. 65: M Reid, N Henke. 66: J Adams, W Gleason, P Burton. 67: N Lancaster, W Westerdale, L Roberts, M Bradley, S Lowery, J Dowdall, S Trethowey. 68: G Kraft, D Stockton Jr, T Byrum, A Rodriguez, P Claxton, F Lickliter, T Dempsey, T Tobin, P Jacobson, F Funk, B McCallister, D Pooley, J Carter, C Smith

KENT, Washington: LPGA Saleco Classic: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 67: K Webb (Aus), A Sorenstam (Swe), D Reid (GB). 68: S Turner, L Neumann (Swe), M McGann, J Lidback (Peru), D Eggeling, S Waugh (Aus), W Ward. 69: P Sheehan, C Schreyer, C Figg-Currier, M Edge, D Andrews, R Hetherington (Aus), L Brower, L Bernounti (Br), P Sinn (S Kor), J Carter (Aus), C Matthew (GB), M Lunn (Aus), C Hj Koch (Swe). Other British: 71: S Maynor. 72: H Dobson. 73: C Pierce, S Strudwick, J Morley, K Marshall. 74: L Hackney. 77: P Wright, K Davies

HOCKEY

SEOUL: Women's Junior World Cup: Play-offs: Fifth-eighth: China 1 South Africa 1 (South Africa win 4-1 on pens), South Korea 6 England 3. Ninth-twelfth: Spain 4 United States 2, Canada 1 Ukraine 9. Seventh-eighth: England 4 China 4 (England won 4-2 on pens). Fifth-sixth: South Korea 3 South Africa 1. Semi-finals: Australia 2 Argentina 1 (aet), Holland 3 Germany 1

ICE HOCKEY

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Group A: Ayr 5 Manchester 3. Group B: Bracknell 5 Basingstoke 2

RUGBY LEAGUE

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL): Major qualifying final: Sydney City 32 Gold Coast 10

RUGBY UNION

Heineken Cup
Pool A

Leinster 16 Leicester 9

Leinster: Try: Nowlan. Con: McGowan. Pens: McGowan 3. Leicester: Pens: Stransky 3. Att: 7,000

(at Donnybrook)

SPEEDWAY

ELITE LEAGUE: Ipswich 57 Wolverhampton 32; Swindon 53 King's Lynn 37

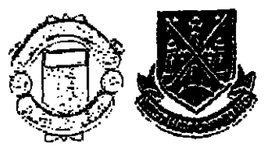
SHEFFIELD: Top Gun junior championship: 1, J Birkinshaw (Newcastle); 2, S Stead (Peterborough); 3, D Howe (Peterborough); 4, D McAllan (Berwick)

TENNIS

BOURNEMOUTH: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: F Mantilla (Sp) bt C van Garsse (Bel) 6-3, 7-6. G Ruseckas (GE) bt L Arnold (Arg) 7-6, 6-3. M Ondruska (SA) bt J Diaz (Sp) 7-5, 6-3; C Moya (Sp) bt D Scala (It) 6-3, 6-4

MARBELLA: Men's tournament: Second round: A Costa (Sp) bt J Burillo (Sp) 7-6, 6-3, J Alonso (Sp) bt B Karbacher (Ger) 6-4, 6-1. Quarter-finals: Costa bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-3, 7-6; G Blanco (Sp) bt F Roig (Sp) 7-6, 6-3. D Hrbaty (Slovakia) bt F Alami (Mor) 6-3, 7-5; A Berasategui (Sp) bt Alonso 6

FOOTBALL SATURDAY



MANCHESTER UNITED
v
WEST HAM UNITED
Today, 3.0

Oliver Holt

It is too early in this fractured season to be talking about top-of-the-table matches with any relevance, but this encounter between two of the clubs setting the pace at the top of the FA Carling Premiership should at least establish West Ham's credentials and give a few clues as to whether they can stay somewhere near the leaders or slip back towards the middle of the table.

After a start to the season that has brought them three wins and a draw from their first five games, the match this afternoon is, in fact, the first of four that will test West Ham to the limit. After the champions, they have to play Arsenal, Newcastle United and Liverpool in quick succession. If they are still in touch with the leaders after that sequence, they will have earned the right to be taken seriously.

Of all of those matches, though, the one at Old Trafford is likely to be their toughest. United, as always, seem only to have the kind of problems most other clubs envy going in to the game: which international players to rest, which positions to juggle around. With Blackburn Rovers playing tomorrow, United will go to the top of the table if they win.

It is almost certain that Cole, who has started only one match this season, will continue in attack but, in the absence of Sheringham, who is still recovering from the cracked ribs that kept him out of England's match with Moldova, he will probably be partnered either by Scholes, one of England's midweek heroes, or Poborsky.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, who has been using a squad system at Old Trafford almost as extensively as Ruud Gullit at Chelsea, said yesterday that he would play Poborsky for at least half the match, and it seems likely that he will use his presence to give either Scholes or Beckham some rest after their exertions on international duty. There is also a chance that Johnsen will return in central defence in place of a rested Berg.

United, who have not hit their best form so far this season despite remaining unbeaten and without conceding a goal, may have to raise their game to beat West Ham, whose strikers, Hartson and Kitson, have started where they left off last season and who have become an even more potent attacking force thanks to the addition of Berkovic, playing just behind the front two. It should be an entertaining game, but United will be too strong.

MANCHESTER UNITED (probable: 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, G Pallister, R Johnsen, D Irwin — D Beckham, R Keane, N Butt, R Giggs — K Poborsky, A Cole.
WEST HAM UNITED (probable: 4-3-1-2): L Miklosko — S Potts, R Ferdinand, D Unsworth, T Breacker — S Lomas, J Moncur, S Lazaridis — E Berkovic — J Hartson, P Kitson.
Referee: D Elleray.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, BBC1 10.50pm, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: United to win by two goals.

Not waving but drowning: Ally McCoist waves goodbye to Europe again while Alan Shearer beats a retreat from Trelleborgs

FIRST 11 ELEVEN

EURO SCEPTICS

Before British clubs embark on another European adventure, here's a reminder of how it can all go horribly wrong

1. Blackburn v Trelleborgs (1994)
The most expensively assembled side in history against a team of Swedish part-timers. No contest, surely. Er, not quite

2. Nott'm Forest v Anderlecht (1984)
Forest led 2-0 from the first leg in their Uefa Cup semi-final before Anderlecht proved that you can buy success

3. Man City v Fenerbahçe (1968)
"We'll frighten Europe to death," boasted Malcolm Allison. They didn't

4. QPR v Partizan Belgrade (1984)
Rangers won the first leg 6-2 at Highbury (Uefa didn't take plastic), but contrived to lose 4-0 away

5. Liverpool v CSKA Sofia (1982)
The holders were poised for another European Cup, until Grobbelaar intervened

6. Manchester United v Videoton (1985)
Video who? Exactly!

7. Derby County v Real Madrid (1975)
Charlie George inspired the Rams to a 4-1 victory at the Baseball Ground. It wasn't enough.

8. Liverpool v Brondby (1995)
The once all-conquering Reds beaten at Anfield by the only goal of the tie

9. Man Utd v Sporting Lisbon (1964)
A 4-1 win at Old Trafford took Matt Busby to the brink of the Cup Winners' Cup semi-final. Then they lost 5-0 away

10. Chelsea v Atvidabergs FF (1971)
Chelsea went out on away goals after a record 21-0 aggregate win over Jeunesse Hautcherage in the first round

11. Oh yes . . . and Rangers in any year you care to mention

☐ Compiled by Richard Whitehead

Brian Glanville

Bolton may be without their new defender, Elliott, for many months because of a fractured leg, but at least they are likely to have Taggart, who missed Northern Ireland's midweek slump against Albania through injury.

They will certainly need him against the deadly spearhead of Bergkamp, who has seldom been in finer form, and Wright, whose two goals for England should help to release him from the apparent burden of chasing Cliff Bastin's club record.

Overmars, dropped by Holland for their game against Belgium, will have a point to prove in his quest for a place in the 1998 World Cup finals.

Having dropped four points in games against Leicester City and Tottenham Hotspur, which they should have won, Arsenal can hardly afford to falter again and Bolton scarcely look the team to stop them, though their resilience in coming back to draw against Coventry City, after going two goals down, suggests that they have heart.

Blake scored both Bolton's goals that day and an Arsenal defence still waiting for the return of Adams — who should begin on the bench today — might have problems with the Wales striker and the indestructible Beardsley.

ARSENAL (probable: 4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, S Bould, G Grimandi, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, E Petit, M Overmars — D Bergkamp, I Wright.
BOLTON WANDERERS (possible: 4-4-2): K Branagan — J Phillips, G Taggart, G Bergsson, S McAnespie — J Pollock, P Frandsen, A Thompson, S Sellars — N Blake, P Beardsley.
Referee: N Barry

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Arsenal to win 3-1.

BLACKBURN ROVERS
v
LEEDS UNITED
Tomorrow, 4.0

Oliver Holt

After their bravura start to the season, one that has taken them to the top of the FA Carling Premiership, kept their unbeaten record intact and earned Roy Hodgson his first manager-of-the-month award, Blackburn face the first real test of their championship credentials at Ewood Park this afternoon.

It is a test not so much because the visitors are Leeds United, a dour side built for survival and very little else, but because Blackburn have been badly affected by injuries. Ripley, of course, is the most high-profile absentee and the loss that could be the most damaging to their cause. After a promising start as a second-half substitute for England against Moldova on Wednesday night, Ripley pulled a hamstring and could now be out of the Blackburn team for six weeks.

Rovers have already lost Filan, their goalkeeper, with a broken arm and have lingering injury worries about Hendry, who suffered concussion against Crystal Palace a fortnight ago, and Wilcox.

Martin Dahlin, the £2.5 million signing from AS Roma, may be used on the right side of midfield and there could be a first start for the highly-rated Swedish midfielder, Anders Andersson.

Blackburn should still have too much flair, though, for a Leeds side that has slipped towards the bottom of the table after a mediocre start. The lively performances of Wallace and Hasselbaink in attack have been the only chinks of light in the gloom.

The best hope for the visitors is to try to hold out for a goalless draw, but Gallacher and Sutton, the Premiership's leading scorers with 11 goals between them, look as though they could break down the most stubborn of defences at the moment.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable: 4-4-2): T Flowers — P Valery, S Henchoz, C Hendry, J Kenna — M Dahlin, L Bohinen, G Flitcroft, J Wilcox — C Sutton, K Gallacher.
LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn — G Kelly, L Radebe, D Wetherall, D Robertson — H Kewell, A I Haaland, D Hopkin, B Ribeiro — R Wallace, J F Hasselbaink.
Referee: S Dunn

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, 4.0.
■ PREDICTION: Blackburn to win by one goal

Keith Pike

International week, which used to see Everton's training ground deserted and the likes of Derby County carry on regardless, nowadays offers an insight into both the cosmopolitan nature of the Premiership and the relative decline of the once-mighty Merseysiders.

Jim Smith, having flown to Copenhagen to see three of his players in action as Denmark took on Croatia, returned to Pride Park to fret about the well-being of Dailly (Scotland), Poom (Estonia), Eranio (Italy), Burton (Jamaica) and Wanchope (Costa Rica). Howard Kendall was only mildly inconvenienced by comparison. "With nine international representatives on a pretty regular basis, it shows the quality of the players we have," Smith said, with obvious pride.

But will that come before a fall? Twice last season, Everton beat Derby thanks to one late goal and Smith fears the threat that Duncan Ferguson will pose today. "When he is firing in the air, nobody can touch him," he said. Set-pieces these days are Everton's most likely route to goal and with Hinchcliffe set to return at the expense of Thomas, ruled out by a calf strain, or Phelan, similarly afflicted and doubtful, the delivery from corners and free kicks is sure to improve.

DERBY COUNTY (possible; 3-5-2): M Poom — C Dailly, I Stimac, J Laursen — S Eranio, A Asanovic, L Carsley, J Hunt, C Powell — D Sturridge, F Baiano.
EVERTON (possible, 4-4-2): N Southall — E Barrett, S Bilic, D Watson, A Hinchcliffe — J Oster, D Williamson, G Speed, G Stuart — D Ferguson, N Barmby.
Referee: M Riley.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Everton by one goal again.

DERBY COUNTY
v
EVERTON
Today, 3.0

Richard Hobson

Sasa Curcic is a new man, it would seem. Over the past week, he has asked to come off the transfer list, begun a diet and put in extra training. His rehabilitation will be completed this afternoon if he replaces Ian Taylor, who is struggling with a groin problem, in the Aston Villa midfield.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, acknowledges that a fit and focused Curcic is too good not to be playing in the first team. Equally, there is an obvious vacancy for a midfield player who can break beyond the front two. Villa, second from bottom, have not scored from midfield for 11 Premiership games stretching back to last season: indeed, Draper, Taylor and Townsend managed just four league goals between them throughout the 1996-97 campaign.

Barnsley, in contrast, owed much of their promotion success to the powerful running and strong finishing of Neil Redfearn. He has scored twice already this time around and Danny Wilson, the manager, has addressed a perceived weakness in his forward line by recruiting Ashley Ward from Derby County. Each of their two wins this season have followed a defeat. Leese is expected to continue in goal as they seek to maintain that record after the latest setback against Derby.

BARNSLEY (possible: 3-4-1-2): L Leese — A de Zeeuw, M Appleby, A Moses — N Eaden, N Redfearn, E Tinkler, D Barnard — C Marcelle — A Ward, G Hristov
ASTON VILLA (possible: 3-5-2): M Bosnich — U Ehiogu, S Staunton, G Southgate — F Nelson, M Draper, S Curcic, S Grayson, A Wright — S Collymore, D Yorke
Referee: G Barber

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Villa to sneak it.

BARNSLEY
v
ASTON VILLA
Today, 3.0

Peter Robinson

The mercury passed 100F in Madrid on Wednesday, enough for any sensible Spaniard to settle down to a siesta while the grockles gazed at *Guernica* or ticked Velázquez's *La Familia de Felipe IV* off their list of must-sees. Sprinklers were working overtime from the Retiro to the Estadio Vicente Calderón. It was a nice day in Leicester, too, but not quite the same.

It is understandable that thoughts in the East Midlands have turned already to tapas and the Plaza Mayor, but Leicester City are unlikely to take things easy before flying out tomorrow to prepare to take on Atlético Madrid, spenders of silly money on Juninho and Co. They are not a team who take their collective foot off the gas. They are also free of injuries and suspensions.

Not so Tottenham Hotspur, for whom Iversen has become the latest case for treatment after returning from Norway Under-21 duty with an ankle injury. Sinton is out as well, as are long-termers Anderton, Vega, Austin etc etc. Fortunately, Armstrong is fit after nine months of ankle problems and four goals in two recent reserve games, so too is Ginola (shoulder). Edinburgh is suspended, Calderwood back after a similar ban. A changed team, then.

LEICESTER CITY (probable; 3-5-2): K Keller — S Prior, M Elliott, S Welsh — P Kaamark, R Savage, N Lennon, M Izzet, S Guppy — S Claridge, E Heskey
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (possible; 3-5-2): I Walker — J Scales, S Campbell, C Calderwood — J Domínguez, S Carr, S Clemence, D Howells, D Ginola — C Armstrong, L Ferdinand.
Referee: A Wilde.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Home win, but only just.

LEICESTER CITY
v
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
Today, 3.0

Russell Kempson

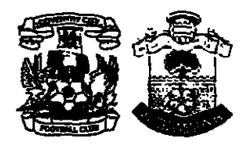
Kevin Richardson could return to haunt Coventry, only a few days after switching his allegiance from Highfield Road to The Dell. Richardson will captain Southampton on their trip to the Midlands but Gordon Strachan, the manager who sold him, is not worried that he might be able to reveal the strengths and weaknesses of his former team-mates.

"We parted great friends and with great respect for each other," Strachan said. "I don't think Kevin can pass on too much information about us. Perhaps there are one or two little bits but, anyway, clubs are usually quite thorough in the way they do their homework." Richardson, who played in Coventry's past three games, is at least likely to have pinpointed the fact that his old mates haven't won for four matches and are not doing terribly well. Come to think of it, neither are Southampton, whose sole success this season is a 1-0 win against Crystal Palace, those South East London giants.

Dave Jones, the manager, continues to search the length and breadth of Scandinavia for players who are prepared to move to Hampshire but it is unlikely that his side will surge up the Premiership until Matthew Le Tissier, he of the blissful artistry, recovers from a broken arm.

COVENTRY CITY (probable: 4-5-1): S Ogrizovic — R Nilsson, R Shaw, P Williams, D Burrows — D Huckerby, P Telfer, G McAllister, M Hall, J Salako — D Dublin
SOUTHAMPTON (possible, 4-4-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, F Benali, L Todd — A Williams, D Hughes, N Madsen, D Speedling — K Davies, E Ostenstad
Referee: U Rennie

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Low-scoring draw.



COVENTRY CITY
v
SOUTHAMPTON
Today, 3.0

Mark Hodkinson

In the blue and white areas of Sheffield, they talk animatedly about last season's trip to Anfield. Wednesday supporters have voted the 1-0 win as the best moment of the season. It was the day that Peter Atherton man-marked McManaman, with ruthless efficiency, a tactic adopted by many of Liverpool's opponents thereafter. However, there will be precious few Wednesday followers able to tell Anfield tales this time. The Anfield Road End is under renovation and tickets have not been made available to visiting supporters.

"We are going into a cauldron," according to David Pleat, the Wednesday manager. He will take Jim Magilton, who has joined Wednesday from Southampton, and Nigel Clough, on a month's loan from Manchester City, with him, signings to ease an injury crisis that has claimed Booth, Oakes, Humphreys, Donaldson and Pembridge. Benito Carbone is suspended.

Leonhardsen has recovered from a hamstring injury and wore a Liverpool shirt for the first time this week when he played for the reserves against Birmingham City. He is expected to be a substitute. Robbie Fowler injured his knee again in training and will play no part today.

LIVERPOOL (probable: 3-5-2): D James — B T Kvarme, M Wright, S Harkness — R Jones, M Thomas, P Ince, S McManaman, S I Bjornebye — K Riedle, M Owen
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (probable: 4-4-2): K Pressman — I Nolan, J Newsome, I Walker, S Nicol — P Di Canio, G Hyde, J Magilton, P Atherton — G Whittingham, D Hirst.
Referee: G Poll.

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Comfortable win for Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL
v
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
Today, 3.0

Matt Dickinson

London's Italian community will dare to show their faces in public at Selhurst Park today, safe in the knowledge that club loyalties will consume national rivalry for at least three weeks. And they call football fans fickle.

That is assuming Gianfranco Zola plays for Chelsea, which seems likely. Ruud Gullit, the coach, has yet to pick the same two forwards from his pool for consecutive games and the little Sardinian, despite having had his ego bruised by the goalless draw in Georgia on Wednesday, may break the sequence today. Gullit's championing of the squad system that worked so well in his days at AC Milan may have raised a few eyebrows, but he has all the evidence that he needs in Chelsea's record of three consecutive wins that have yielded 12 goals.

It is hard to see that powerful run ending against Steve Coppell's team, who are in danger of developing a phobia in front of their own fans. The Palace manager may throw in the Israel international, Itzhik Zohar, his £1.2 million signing from Royal Antwerp, to shake things up and he will hope that a sell-out crowd can lift his side to their first home point after defeats by Barnsley, Southampton and Blackburn Rovers.

CRYSTAL PALACE (probable: 3-5-2): A Miller — D Tuttle, M Edworthy, A Linghan — K Muscat, A Lombardo, A Roberts, N Emblen, D Gordon — P Warhurst, B Dyer.
CHELSEA (probable; 3-5-2): E de Goey — M Duberry, S Clarke, F Leboeuf — G Le Saux, D Petrescu, G Poyet, D Wise, R Di Matteo — M Hughes, G Zola.
Referee: G Ashby

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, goal highlights.
■ PREDICTION: Chelsea's surge to continue.

CRYSTAL PALACE
v
CHELSEA
Today, 3.0

David Maddock

Without a win and bottom of the table, Wimbledon have made a less than an auspicious start since they welcomed wealthy backers from Norway. They have rarely found Newcastle to be an inviting place. In seven meetings between the clubs, Wimbledon have won one.

To cap it all, they have injury problems with Jones, Holdsworth and Euell absent, and Earle away on international duty for Jamaica. Joe Kinnear, the manager, is about to exploit the Norway connection, however. He watched Staale Solbakken, the international midfield player, score against Switzerland on Wednesday. "I've decided I would like an Norwegian player to replace Leonhardsen," Kinnear said. A payment of £380,000 to Lillestrom will grant his wish.

Newcastle have the only remaining 100 per cent record this season but, as they have played only two games, it is not quite as impressive as it seems. Still, no one should quibble about the happy knack of winning.

Newcastle would like a victory to set them up for their Champions' League encounter with Barcelona on Wednesday. History suggests that they might get it, even though Batty is suspended and Pearce is doubtful.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (probable: 4-4-2): S Given — S Watson, A Pistone, P Albert, J Beresford — T Ketsbaia, J Barnos, R Lee, K Gillespie — F Asprilla, I Rush.
WIMBLEDON (probable; 4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, A Kimble — N Ardley, C Hughes, P Fear, S Castledine — E Ekoku, M Gayle.
Referee: M Reed

■ TELEVISION: Today: *Match of the Day*, extended highlights.
■ PREDICTION: A close encounter, Newcastle to shade it.

NEWCASTLE UNITED
v
WIMBLEDON
Today, 3.0

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

European setting for latest chapter in tale of two cities

McMANAMAN'S WORLD

The cities of Glasgow and Liverpool are similar, and so are the passions of their people. That is why I believe our Uefa Cup game against Celtic next week will be akin to a derby, and not the "Battle of Britain" that so many people seem to be expecting.

Maybe it has something to do with the devolution debate, but there has been a strong emphasis on this idea of fervent rivalry between England and Scotland.

If you look closely at the two clubs, though, they have so much in common that I don't believe that there could ever be any genuine hatred.

Liverpool and Celtic have had strong links for generations, even before the Kenny Dalglish transfer, when a real relationship was established. Since then Celtic have played in a few testimonial matches, such as the one for Ian Rush.

But I think it is the experience of the supporters that has given the two clubs such an affinity. Both cities have gone through bad times, both are tough dock-based cities and the people of both cities see life from a certain angle.

They have gone through depressions and, at times, the football club was one of the few areas to generate civic pride. These days both cities are vibrant, lively places and the spirit of the people is still strong. That is why I expect there will be a certain warmth between the two clubs. Mind you, there will still be a desperation to win.

I think the experience of Celtic has mirrored that of Liverpool. We were both dominant clubs in our own countries who were also successful in Europe for a long period. Both clubs have slipped slightly off the top in recent years, though, and are looking for trophies to get right back up there. Celtic, perhaps, have even more need to do well this season than we do, but both sets of supporters will be demanding victory and nothing else.

That is why there will be passion at both legs of this tie. Liverpool, at least, have history on their side. We have never lost a European tie against a Scottish club — here's hoping that the trend continues.

■ Rome, sweet Rome

THOSE with good memories may recall that, back in February, I wrote in this column that I believed passionately that England would qualify for the World Cup finals despite a home defeat at the hands of Italy. It seems that everybody else is now beginning to believe the same.

After the Italy game at Wembley, a gloom seemed to descend on English football. The feeling was that we just were not good enough and that the Italians were in a different league, technically and tactically. I suggested then that we were quite capable of going to Rome and beating Italy.

It is something that I still think we are capable of doing. It won't be easy, obviously, but it is possible. Italy were not that much better than England at Wembley.

We didn't play particularly well and we allowed the Italians the time to get behind the ball far too easily. But they had one vital factor that we lacked — luck. It was a lucky deflection for their goal; we didn't get the same luck in front of goal.

Since then, however, we have proved that we are a good side, and Italy have slipped up a little. Now we go to Rome only needing a point and there will be no doubt that is in England's favour. Italy are a very difficult side to break down when they can afford to sit back. Now they need to come out and score a goal, which will allow England some space on the break.

The onus will be on them. Their supporters will be on edge, urging their team forward and demanding victory. England will go into the match knowing that if we don't concede a goal, we will be in the finals. I know which position I would rather be in.

I don't think we will go there solely to defend. As I have suggested, we are as good a side as Italy. There seems to be a perception in this country that the foreign nations are better than us. People always say the Germans, the Italians, the French are the greatest, but we should be saying that it's us.

There is nothing for England to fear. We should have the belief that we can match any other country and I think that the events at Le Tournoi de France proved that. Rome on October 11 may be the final proof.

■ Home improvements

THERE has been a suggestion already about Liverpool that our home form will again not be good enough to enable us to win the championship — and all that after one match at Anfield!

We play Sheffield Wednesday today and there is no doubt that it will be a difficult challenge. Wednesday came to our ground last season and snatched a surprise victory, and many people have suggested that that was the moment when our home form collapsed. I think things will be different this season, though.

Last year we were perhaps a bit one-dimensional up front. If things weren't going right for us, if sides were defending in numbers against us, then we did not have too many options to change the game. But our manager has recruited well over the summer, and now I think we can be a very different side.

Up front, we certainly have more options with the addition of Karlheinz Riedle and the emergence of Michael Owen. What they allow us to do is to change our tactics during a game and completely transform the style of the side.

We can start with the five-man midfield but, if things are not going as planned, we can easily switch to a 4-4-2 formation, or even play with three strikers up front.

I think that will be valuable to us this season. There is no doubt that we dropped too many points at home last time around and that cost us any chance of the championship. Sides will always come to Anfield to defend and we must devise ways to break them down.

With our midfield and forward line this season, I am sure that we will be even more adaptable and it will give us those all important options.

STEVE McMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

(Last week's position in brackets)	Played	Points	Goal Diff	Home W	Home D	Home L	Home F	Home A	Away W	Away D	Away L	Away F	Away A	Last 10 matches W-D-L	Current streak
1. BLACKBURN ROVERS (1)	5	13	+11	2	1	0	9	3	2	0	0	6	1	4-1-0	W2
2. MANCHESTER UTD (2)	5	13	+8	2	0	0	4	0	2	1	0	4	0	4-1-0	W2
3. WEST HAM UTD (5)	5	10	+3	2	0	0	5	2	1	1	1	4	4	3-1-1	W1
4. CHELSEA (6)	4	9	+9	1	0	0	4	2	2	0	1	10	3	3-0-1	W3
5. ARSENAL (3)	5	9	+4	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	7	5	2-3-0	D2
6. LEICESTER CITY (4)	5	8	+1	1	2	0	4	3	1	0	1	2	2	2-2-1	L1
7. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (9)	5	7	-3	2	0	1	4	4	0	1	1	1	2	2-1-2	D1
8. NEWCASTLE UTD (7)	2	6	+2	2	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	2-0-0	W2
9. CRYSTAL PALACE (8)	5	6	0	0	0	2	1	3	2	0	1	4	2	2-0-3	L2
10. BARNSLEY (10)	5	6	-6	1	0	2	3	9	1	0	1	1	1	2-0-2	L1
11. LIVERPOOL (11)	4	5	+1	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	0	4	2	1-2-1	W1
12. BOLTON WANDERERS (13)	4	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	4	4	1-2-1	L1
13. COVENTRY CITY (12)	5	5	-3	1	2	0	6	5	0	0	2	0	5	1-2-2	L1
14. EVERTON (15)	4	4	-2	1	0	2	3	5	0	1	0	0	0	1-1-2	L1
15. LEEDS UTD (14)	5	4	-3	0	1	2	1	5	1	0	1	3	2	1-1-3	L3
16. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (18)	5	4	-7	1	0	1	2	3	0	1	2	4	10	1-1-3	W1
17. DERBY COUNTY (16)	3	3	-1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	1-0-2	W1
18. SOUTHAMPTON (16)	5	3	-5	1	0	2	2	4	0	0	2	2	5	1-0-4	L1
19. ASTON VILLA (20)	5	3	-6	1	0	1	1	4	0	0	3	2	5	1-0-4	W1
20. WIMBLEDON (17)	4	2	-4	0	2	1	2	4	0	0	1	1	3	0-2-2	L2

ATTACK

	Goals scored	Avge
1. Chelsea	14	3.50
2. Blackburn	15	3.00
3. Arsenal	9	1.80
=. West Ham	9	1.80
5. Manchester Utd	8	1.60
6. Newcastle	3	1.50
7. Liverpool	5	1.25
8. Coventry	6	1.20
=. Leicester	6	1.20
=. Sheffield Wed	6	1.20
11. Bolton	4	1.00
=. Crystal Palace	5	1.00
=. Tottenham	5	1.00
14. Barnsley	4	0.80
=. Leeds Utd	4	0.80
=. Southampton	4	0.80
17. Everton	3	0.75
=. Wimbledon	3	0.75
19. Aston Villa	3	0.60
20. Derby	1	0.33

DEFENCE

	Goals conceded	Avge
1. Manchester Utd	0	0.00
2. Newcastle	1	0.50
3. Derby	2	0.67
4. Blackburn	4	0.80
5. Arsenal	5	1.00
=. Bolton	4	1.00
=. Crystal Palace	5	1.00
=. Leicester	5	1.00
=. Liverpool	4	1.00
10. Tottenham	6	1.20
=. West Ham	6	1.20
12. Chelsea	5	1.25
=. Everton	5	1.25
14. Leeds Utd	7	1.40
15. Wimbledon	4	1.75
16. Aston Villa	9	1.80
=. Southampton	9	1.80
18. Barnsley	10	2.00
=. Coventry	10	2.00
20. Sheffield Wed	13	2.60

CAUTIONS

Cards issued	Yellow	Red
1. C Palace	16	0
2. Sheffield Wed	13	1
3. Arsenal	14	0
4. Tottenham	12	1
5. Coventry	13	0
6. Southampton	9	0
7. Chelsea	7	1
8. Bolton	8	0
=. Leicester	8	0
=. West Ham	8	0
=. Wimbledon	8	0
12. Blackburn	7	0
=. Derby	7	0
=. Liverpool	7	0
15. Everton	6	0
=. Leeds Utd	6	0
17. Newcastle	4	1
18. Manchester Utd	5	0
19. Barnsley	4	0
=. Aston Villa	4	0

OFFENDERS

By team	Cards/players
Arsenal	3Y Bergkamp, Bould
Aston Villa	1Y (4 players)
Barnsley	2Y Sheridan
Blackburn	2Y Flitcroft, Sutton
Bolton	2Y Taggart
Chelsea	2Y Wise; 1R Sinclair
Coventry	4Y Williams
C Palace	4Y Tuttle
Derby	2Y Eranio, Laursen
Everton	2Y Bilic
Leeds Utd	1Y (6 players)
Leicester	2Y Heskey, Lennon
Liverpool	2Y Ince
Man Utd	1Y (5 players)
Newcastle	2Y+1R Batty
Sheff Wed	2Y+1R Carbone
Southampton	2Y Monkou
Tottenham	3Y+1R Edinburgh
West Ham	3Y Moncur
Wimbledon	1Y (8 players)

REFEREES

	P	Cards issued Yellow	Red
1. S Dunn	1	7	0
2. G Willard	3	18	2
3. P Durkin	3	18	0
4. G Barber	2	11	0
5. M Bodenham	3	14	0
6. J Winter	3	11	1
7. P Alcock	2	8	0
=. U Rennie	2	8	0
9. P Jones	3	11	0
10. A Wilkie	4	13	1
11. N Barry	2	7	0
12. M Riley	2	6	0
13. D Gallagher	3	8	0
14. K Burge	3	7	0
=. G Poll	3	7	0
16. D Elleray	2	4	0
17. S Lodge	4	7	0
18. G Ashby	1	1	0
19. M Reed	0	0	0

SCORERS

	Goals
Sutton (Blackburn)	6
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	5
Gallacher (Blackburn)	5
Carbone (Sheff Wed)	4
Vialli (Chelsea)	4
Blake (Bolton)	3
Dublin (Coventry)	3
Ferdinand (Tottenham)	3
Hartson (West Ham)	3
Petrescu (Chelsea)	3
Wright (Arsenal)	3
Asprilla (Newcastle)	2
Beckham (Man Utd)	2
Berkovic (Man Utd)	2
Davies (Southampton)	2
Dyer (C Palace)	2
Elliott (Leicester)	2
Huckerby (Coventry)	2
Lombardo (C Palace)	2
Owen (Liverpool)	2
Redfearn (Barnsley)	2
Wallace (Leeds)	2
Yorke (Aston Villa)	2

SCORING TRENDS

Goals per half	1st	2nd
Arsenal	4	5
Aston Villa	1	2
Barnsley	2	2
Blackburn	11	4
Bolton	2	2
Chelsea	8	6
Coventry	4	2
Crystal Palace	2	3
Derby	1	0
Everton	0	3
Leeds Utd	3	1
Leicester	2	4
Liverpool	1	4
Manchester Utd	2	6
Newcastle	2	1
Sheffield Wed	2	4
Southampton	2	2
Tottenham	2	3
West Ham	2	7
Wimbledon	1	2

HOME

Attendance	Average	% full
Arsenal	37,713	98%
Aston Villa	38,070	97%
Barnsley	18,499	100%
Blackburn	24,454	78%
Bolton	23,131	93%
Crystal Palace	21,198	81%
Chelsea	30,008	95%
Coventry	19,213	81%
Derby	27,232	91%
Everton	36,717	91%
Leeds	35,615	89%
Leicester	20,871	97%
Liverpool	35,007	100%
Manchester Utd	55,041	98%
Newcastle	36,747	100%
Sheffield Wed	28,186	71%
Southampton	15,161	99%
Tottenham	26,187	79%
West Ham	24,935	96%
Wimbledon	19,949	76%

AWAY

Attendance	P	Average
Arsenal	3	24,776
Aston Villa	3	27,801
Barnsley	2	24,390
Blackburn	2	28,981
Bolton	3	16,833
Crystal Palace	3	26,608
Chelsea	3	21,031
Coventry	2	46,199
Derby	2	24,722
Everton	1	23,131
Leeds	2	35,274
Leicester	2	29,929
Liverpool	3	32,023
Manchester Utd	3	29,220
Newcastle	0	0
Sheff Wed	3	22,611
Southampton	2	42,508
Tottenham	2	31,728
West Ham	3	23,771
Wimbledon	1	24,516

INTERNET

FA Premiership clubs' official websites

Arsenal	www.arsenal.co.uk
Aston Villa	—
Barnsley	—
Blackburn	www.rovers.co.uk
Bolton	www.boltonwfc.co.uk
Chelsea	www.chelseafc.co.uk
Coventry	www.ccfc.co.uk
C Palace	www.cpfc.co.uk
Derby	—
Everton	evertonfc.merseyworld.com
Leeds	www.lufc.co.uk
Leicester	www.lcfc.co.uk
Liverpool	—
Man Utd	www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
Newcastle	www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nufc
Sheff Wed	—
Southampton	www.soton.ac.uk/~saints
Tottenham	www.spurs.co.uk
West Ham	www.westhamunited.co.uk
Wimbledon	—
FA Premiership	www.fa-carling.com

WEEKEND MATCHES

TODAY

Kick off 3.0 — * denotes all-ticket. Pools coupon numbers in brackets in Premiership fixtures. † denotes sold out, otherwise seats still available

FA Carling Premiership

(1) † Arsenal v Bolton
(2) † Barnsley v Aston Villa
(3) Coventry v Southampton
(4) *† Crystal Palace v Chelsea
(5) Derby v Everton
(6) *† Leicester v Tottenham
(7) † Liverpool v Sheffield Wed
(8) † Manchester Utd v West Ham
(9) † Newcastle v Wimbledon

Nationwide League
First division

(10) Bradford v Middlesbrough
(11) Huddersfield v Ipswich
(12) Norwich v Port Vale
(13) Portsmouth v Crewe
(14) QPR v West Bromwich
(15) Reading v Oxford Utd
(16) Sheffield Utd v Nottm Forest
(17) Stoke v Stockport
(18) Swindon v Tranmere
(19) Wolverhampton v Charlton

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Brom	6	4	2	0	8	4	14
Birmingham	5	4	1	0	11	2	13
Nottm For	6	4	1	1	11	4	13
Bradford	6	4	1	1	9	7	13
Swindon	6	3	2	1	7	4	11
Sunderland	6	3	0	3	11	8	9
* Bury	6	2	3	1	6	6	9
Portsmouth	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Wolves	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Sheff Utd	4	2	2	0	4	1	8
Port Vale	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Charlton	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Middlesbro	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
QPR	5	2	1	2	5	8	7
Oxford Utd	6	2	0	4	9	9	6
* Man City	5	1	2	2	8	9	5
Ipswich	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Stoke	5	1	2	2	2	4	5
Tranmere	6	1	1	4	4	10	4
Norwich	5	1	1	3	3	9	4
Stockport	6	0	3	3	6	9	3
Crewe	4	1	0	3	5	7	3
Huddersfld	5	0	2	3	2	6	2
Reading	6	0	1	5	2	11	1

* not including last night's match

Second division

(20) Bournemouth v Luton
(21) Bristol Rovers v Gillingham
(22) Fulham v Grimsby
(23) Millwall v Southend
(24) Oldham v Northampton
(25) Plymouth v Brentford
(26) Preston v Walsall
(27) Watford v Chesterfield
(28) Wigan v Blackpool
(29) Wrexham v Bristol City
(30) Wycombe v Carlisle
(31) York v Burnley

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Watford	6	5	0	1	9	4	15
Chesterfld	6	4	2	0	9	4	14
Northmptn	6	4	1	1	7	3	13
Bristol R	6	3	3	0	8	3	12
Oldham	6	3	2	1	8	6	11
Fulham	6	3	2	1	6	3	11
Wycombe	6	3	1	2	13	10	10
Bournemth	6	3	1	2	8	5	10
Preston	6	3	1	2	8	5	10
Blackpool	6	3	0	3	9	12	9
Gillingham	6	2	2	2	5	6	8
Wigan	6	2	1	3	9	10	7
Bristol City	5	2	1	2	7	5	7
Brentford	6	2	1	3	7	10	7
Southend	6	2	1	3	7	10	7
York	6	2	1	3	6	8	7
Millwall	4	2	0	2	8	5	6
Luton	6	1	2	3	2	5	5
Wrexham	5	1	1	3	8	9	4
Walsall	6	1	1	4	6	11	4
Plymouth	6	0	4	2	5	8	4
Grimsby	6	0	4	2	4	8	4
Carlisle	6	1	1	4	4	10	4
Burnley	6	0	3	3	0	3	3

Third division

(—) Brighton v Darlington
(33) Cambridge Utd v Barnet
(33) Cardiff v Rochdale
(34) Chester v Shrewsbury
(35) Hartlepool v Torquay
(36) Hull v Lincoln
(37) Leyton Orient v Exeter
(38) Macclesfield v Swansea
(39) Notts County v Mansfield
(—) Rotherham v Peterborough
(—) Scunthorpe v Doncaster

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Exeter	6	4	2	0	8	4	14
Peterboro	6	4	1	1	16	5	13
Camb Utd	6	4	1	1	13	7	13
Scunthrpe	6	4	0	2	6	5	12
Notts Co	6	3	2	1	10	6	11
* Scarboro	6	3	2	1	9	7	11
Macclsfld	6	3	2	1	9	5	11
Barnet	6	3	1	2	10	11	10
Swansea	6	3	0	3	11	12	9
Cardiff	5	2	3	0	7	5	9
L Orient	6	3	0	3	7	5	9
* Colchester	6	2	2	2	10	11	8
Rotherham	6	2	2	2	9	8	8
Shrewsbury	6	2	1	3	9	10	7
Hartlpool	6	1	4	1	7	7	7
Lincoln	6	2	1	3	7	11	7
Chester	5	2	1	2	6	5	7
Mansfield	6	2	1	3	6	6	7
Torquay	6	2	1	3	6	8	7
Rochdale	6	2	0	4	6	7	6
Darlington	6	1	1	4	7	10	4
Hull	6	1	1	4	7	12	4
Brighton	6	0	2	4	5	10	2
Doncaster	6	0	1	5	3	16	1

* not including last night's match

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Hereford v Northwich
(—) Kidderminster v Stevenage
(—) Morecambe v Hednesford
(—) Rushden and D v Farnborough
(—) Stalybridge v Hayes
(—) Woking v Southport

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Dundee Utd v Kilmarnock
(41) Hibernian v Dunfermline
(42) Motherwell v Celtic
(43) Rangers v Aberdeen
(44) St Johnstone v Hearts

First division

(45) Ayr v Dundee
(46) Falkirk v Hamilton
(47) Greenock Morton v Airdrie
(48) Partick v Stirling
(49) Raith v St Mirren

Second division

(—) Brechin v Livingston
(—) Clyde v Stenhousemuir
(—) Clydebank v East Fife
(—) Inverness CT v Stranraer
(—) Queen of South v Forfar

Third division

(—) Albion v Dumbarton
(—) Alloa v Montrose
(—) Arbroath v Ross County
(—) Cowdenbeath v East Stirling
(—) Queen's Park v Berwick

UNIBOND LEAGUE. Premier division: Colwyn Bay v Boston; Runcorn v Altrincham
ICIS LEAGUE. Premier division: Boreham Wood v St Albans; Enfield v Dagenham and Redbridge

TOMORROW

FA Carling Premiership
Blackburn v Leeds (4.0)

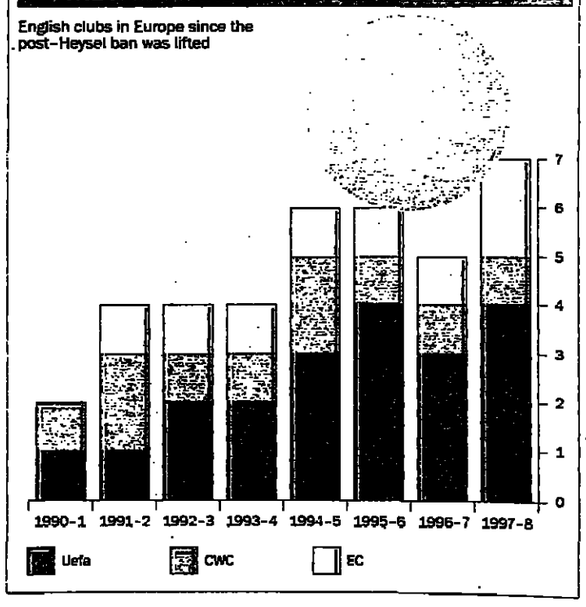
Nationwide League
First division
Birmingham v Sunderland (1.0)

TELEVISION DETAILS

BBC1: Today: Football Focus (in Grandstand), 12.20pm; Match of the Day (main game: Leicester v Tottenham), 10.50pm
CHANNEL 4: Today: Football Italia, 10am. Tomorrow: Football Italia (live game, tbc), 2.45pm.
SKY SPORTS 1: Tomorrow: Goals on Sunday, 11am; Ford Super Sunday, Blackburn v Leeds (live), from 3.0pm
SKY SPORTS 2: Today: Soccer AM, from 8am. Tomorrow: Football League, Birmingham v Sunderland (live), from 12pm, Football League review, from 12am.
SKY SPORTS 3: Today: Spanish league (live match, tbc), 7pm

THE FAR CORNER: EUROPEAN TRAVELLERS

English clubs in Europe since the post-Heysel ban was lifted



Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Perpetual motion personified

Martin O'Neill, the dynamic Irishman who has plotted the rise and rise of Leicester City

MARC ASPLAND

One for the scrapbook: O'Neill, who normally barely pauses to catch his breath, taking a moment in the autumn sunshine to relax from the pressures of management in the Premiership

Silence is not one of Martin O'Neill's virtues. He mistrusts it. He fills it with his habit-words and his favourite phrases when it creeps up on him at the end of sentences. Sometimes he uses repetition to conquer it and the lovely, lilting rhythm of his speech quickens for the second serving. Silence never catches him out.

In his waking hours, he keeps a vigil against rest and relaxation, too. He refuses to let it impose, not at work, not at home. He hums with nervous energy, his eyes dart, he leans forward eagerly in his chair when he is enthusiastic about his subject, which is always. He worries at things, he gnaws at them. He never lets it lie.

This particular lunchtime, he is sitting behind the door marked "Coaches' Room" at Leicester City's training ground, a series of lush and carefully tended pitches at the end of a suburban cul-de-sac near Filbert Street. There are comfy chairs in the room, but he is sitting on a hard one, perched on the edge, talking about why he can never stop football whirring around his brain.

"No," he says, "no, I don't find it easy to relax away from the game. Most boys pick up golf and things like this here and that type of stuff, but I don't. I can't. I haven't got an ability to be able to relax at the end of it all. I would love to be able to do it and I do envy managers who, once they step into their car to go home, the game no longer counts for them. Well, I am not one of those unfortunately.

"My two daughters and my wife have to listen to me persistently about this and about that, about the game. And when they come in and put a point of view and I don't agree with that point of view, then it's bedlam and it goes on forever. I can't do it, I can't let go. That has been the story in our household for a number of years. I have got plenty of other interests, don't worry about that, but football is never that far away.

"Even as a player, funnily enough, I was always last out of the dressing room, still contemplating the game. That is just the way I am, unfortunately, and at some stage I should really wise up. I should wise up. If somebody could tell me how to do it, I would do. I would."

This week, though, might not be a good time to try. On Tuesday, Leicester City, the team that has become English football's favourite underdog, the side that still gets patronised as "little Leicester" despite everything O'Neill has achieved, will take to the pitch at the Vicente Calderón stadium, the home of Atletico Madrid, on the biggest night in their 113-year history. Despite all the other ties next week, matches like Newcastle United's clash with Barcelona and Manchester United's trip to Slovakia to play Kosice, it is the first leg of Leicester's Uefa Cup tie against a Spanish team that spent more than £36 million on new players over the summer, including a goodly slice to Middlesbrough for Juninho, that is the most eagerly awaited.

It is archetypal underdog-against-giant material, a team who won their first big trophy for 33 years when they beat Middlesbrough in the Coca-Cola Cup final in April and spent £2 million in the summer against a team that laid out 12 times that much just for two players, Juninho and Christian Vieri, the former Juventus centre forward, a team that is expected to challenge strongly for the Spanish league this season.

"Before the draw was made," O'Neill, 45, said, "I looked at it two ways. Either get the poorest possible team in the competition, draw them and get through or get one of the really, really major teams and get it over with, although that last bit is a throwaway comment and people shouldn't take it too seriously.

"I would probably have preferred some minnow and tried to take it all a wee bit further, but now we're there, why not go for it? We should not have any chance if it is on money spent this year. We should not have any chance, but we are in it and we'll give it a crack."

Win or lose, few would bet against Leicester giving a good account of themselves both away and at home against Atlético. The feast of attention that will be lavished on the club over the next fortnight is bound to focus attention once more on the future of the manager who shares with Joe Kinnear, of Wimbledon, the distinction of being the FA Carling Premiership's most accomplished alchemist.

Yet O'Neill, will not represent an easy seduction for the big boys when they come calling. In 5½ years with Wycombe Wanderers, as he took them from the Vauxhall Conference through to the second division, he turned down approaches from Bristol Rovers and Nottingham Forest before he eventually decamped to Norwich City.

He has a reputation for

OLIVER HOLT

loyalty. A shrewd investor, a parsimonious husbander of limited resources and a brilliant motivator, O'Neill is bound to be next up when a vacancy at a bigger club appears during the annual autumn managerial culling. Whether he takes the bait is a different matter altogether.

"People turn around and say to me: 'Have you mapped your career out?' " O'Neill said. "I have got to say to you, as a typical Irishman, that I have never mapped a day out, never mind anything else. If you are trying to plan for a career, good luck to you, but if you are trying to plan for a career in football management, forget about it. It is an impossibility.

"When I first came to Leicester, I copped a load of hassle and if you had seen the situation here in January 96 when I hadn't won any of my first ten games in charge and there was hell to pay, you would be surprised that you would be speaking to me now. But I wanted to see the job through. I don't like to leave and think I have only half done the job.

"It has gone well since, but it is precarious. I don't fashion out a career. I just do everything I possibly can where I am so that at least I can turn around and say 'I worked my guts out to do this and I was worth every penny someone paid me'. Leicester City can have no complaints at this minute."

About that, there can be no dispute. A traditional yo-yo club, swinging crazily between the top division and the next down, Leicester capped their Coca-Cola Cup triumph by finishing ninth in the Premiership last season. They began this campaign with a win against Aston Villa, victory over Liverpool at Anfield and draws against Manchester United and Arsenal. Despite a subsequent loss to Sheffield Wednesday, it has been such a fine start that they are clear favourites to beat Tottenham Hotspur at Filbert Street this afternoon.

It has got to the point, in fact, where some have begun to accuse O'Neill, who studied law in Belfast before he started his career in football, of being disingenuous, of promoting an image of a team low on talent to lull opponents into a false sense of security when the reality is that Leicester have matured into a formidable side, stocked with fine players such as Matt Elliott, Neil Lennon and Emile Heskey.

"We have got one or two decent players," O'Neill said, "but all of them are players other people didn't want to risk. I know it all seems like a bit of a smokescreen, but we have still got a lot to do to be remotely near that big league.

"I would at least like us to be on a level playing field with the likes of West Ham United and be able to go out and spend £6 million or £10 million on a few players. Our wage bill, if it is not the lowest in the Premiership, it would certainly be in the bottom three and if people here are really serious about this being a big club and wanting to build stands and the rest, then their thinking will have to come into the idea of players, players' demands, that type of stuff. We seem to be defying the logic that passion and spirit can only go so far. How long you can do it, though, is in the lap of the Gods."

Then, there is a breath and a pause. Just in case you thought Martin O'Neill and deckchairs went together naturally, though, he sat in this one long enough for the camera to click through 36 frames. Nine seconds, then he was gone.

Mirrlees carry flag for minnows

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE Vauxhall Conference has long been fighting for all its clubs to all be exempted to the fourth qualifying round of the FA Cup. So the news that an FA sub-committee, which has been investigating the issue since last year, has recommended "a more representative structure" to the full committee has naturally been welcomed by Peter Hunter, the Conference chief executive.

"The prestige of the competition can only be enhanced by a structure that reflects the game as it is now and rules that reflect the progress made by clubs at many levels of the game," he said. It seems, therefore, that it is a case of catch-it-while-you can for ties like that between Kettering Town, one of ten Conference clubs in action in the first qualifying round, and Mirrlees Blackstone, at Rockingham Road today.

The ingredients are classic. Small former works club from the United Counties League, with an average crowd of 100 that is only significantly swollen for contests against local rivals. Stamford Town, travels to play a Conference club for the first time.

Domenico Genovese, 36, the Mirrlees player-manager, shares the same workplace as Steve Berry, his opposing player-manager, because he is the football in the community officer for Kettering. "Our paths cross quite often," Genovese said, "and I've been taking some stick in recent days."

Himself a past Kettering player, Genovese knows that the main threat from Kettering will be posed by the physical presence of Micky Nuttell and will be looking to one Derek Nuttell — yes, his brother — to contain him.

With Kettering, still without a win after eight matches, anchored to the foot of the Conference, Genovese knows that his opponents are under pressure. "The longer we keep it at 0-0, the more the crowd is likely to get on to them," he said. "We don't expect to win, but you never know what can happen in the Cup. Mind you, I don't know if I'll still have a job if we beat them."

For Derek Hall, the Mirrlees secretary, the match is guaranteed to be a success. "We will reap the benefit off the field," he said. "I was speaking to their secretary and he said the gate should be about 1,200 and mentioned a figure of about £2,000."

Leek Town, promoted to the Conference as the UniBond League champions, have a swift return to former pastures when they travel to play Winsford United, while Baldock Town, beaten at home in a replay by Stevenage Borough last season, but now without most of that team who left after relegation to the Dr Martens League southern division, take on Slough Town.

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

High cost of supporting Chelsea

DEVOTEES of Chelsea are a loyal bunch, but it may be stretching it a bit to expect them to invest in the latest Stamford Bridge publication — The Spirit of Chelsea Football Club, written by Neil Barnett. Though it boasts to include everything you've always wanted to know about Chelsea, and much more, the cloth-bound edition will set you back £245, plus £9.50 for insured delivery. Club members and season-ticket holders have already been circulated with this splendiferous offer and Lance Ames, marketing manager of Sirdar Press, the publishing company, reports a healthy response. For those with even greater financial resources, the deluxe leather-bound version retails at a mortgage-sized £595,000, plus £9.50 to make sure you receive it. Will Ken Bates, the chairman, receive a freebie copy? "I'm sure we can do a deal with him," Ames said.

All in a name

One of the strangest-sounding fixtures this season will take place in the League of Wales between Inter Cable-Tel and Total Network Solutions.

Off the line

by Russell Kempson

Football enthusiasts might recall that Cable-Tel used to be known as Inter-Cardiff, but who are the boyos from TNS? Apparently, they are the village club formerly known as Llansantffraid, who represented the principality in the European Cup Winners' Cup last season. For £300,000, they have sold their souls to a computer networking company for five years.

Live on air

Football managers never read the newspapers, so they claim, but Mick McCarthy didn't need to when he watched the Ireland Under-21 side play in the Lithuanian outback of Alynus on Tuesday. As the sole English journalist covering the match shouted his story into the antiquated telephone, little did he realise that his entire report was being simultaneously broadcast, via the public address system, to the 1,000 spectators. Even McCarthy, not the greatest admirer of the Fourth Estate, enjoyed it.

☐ *Antonio Fargas, alias "Huggy Bear" from the Starsky and Hutch cop series of the Seventies, represented the ultimate in street cool. He has barely changed 20 years on, apart from a Nineties-style bottle-blond hairdo, and on a recent visit to Good Old England he helped celebrate the launch of Palace Radio before Crystal Palace played Blackburn Rovers at Selhurst Park. It was his first "soccer" match. "It was excellent, I really enjoyed it," he said. "You could say I'm now a fan of Crystal Palace, this is my team." Perhaps Huggy is not so cool, after all.*

Change of luck

A month in football is a long time, especially for those brave lads from the Maldives. After failing in their bid to reach the World Cup finals, having scored no goals and conceded 59 in five qualifying matches, they rediscovered their touch by reaching the final of the South Asian Football Federation tournament in Kathmandu. It was not without cost, though. After they had beaten Sri Lanka 2-1 in the semi-finals, their players were allegedly attacked by disgruntled members of the Sri Lanka squad and coaching staff. Police took about five minutes to restore peace and calm.

Anyone but them

Manchester City's official club magazine has launched a fantasy football league. Strangely, contestants are not allowed to select players from Manchester United. "It's meant to be a bit of fun," Mike Hansell, who runs the competition, said.

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Sam Lucas, 53, a fanatical Sunderland supporter, is considering suing the club for "emotional distress" after his season ticket failed to arrive and he was unable to watch the first game at the new Stadium of Light.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Mark Hodkinson visits Oldham and finds a chilling warning for Barnsley about what can happen when Premiership euphoria fades

Ghosts that haunt game's fall guys

LIFE AT THE TOP

The moaning starts just minutes after the kick-off. "Play the bugger to feet, will you?" an old boy in a fawn anorak shouts, his voice almost lost in the wind. Down on the pitch, the play remains fractured and almost wilfully negligent. The old boy turns in his seat, looking for another soul to share a glance of resigned empathy.

The stands at Boundary Park, home of Oldham Athletic, are sparsely populated, so the grumbling echoes all around. These are the ghosts of Premierships past, where the wailing never stops and a glorious yesterday taps persistently on the shoulder.

Just four seasons ago, Oldham Athletic were in the top division. Almost every seat was taken as the likes of Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool visited a ground that is one of the highest above sea level in England. It really did feel like heaven was within touching distance.

The town, with its terraced houses and disused mills, perpetual rain and pop groups with names like Wonky Alice, suddenly had glamour by association. A staunch following of about 4,500 supporters tripled and cars were festooned with club stickers as everyone claimed part-ownership of their home-town team. This same fervour has engulfed Barnsley since they secured their place in the FA Carling Premiership.

Success not only brings Manchester United to a football club, it also brings queues, parking problems, ticket shortages, street vendors and thousands of new converts, usually in such numbers to change significantly the atmosphere within a ground.

"It all suddenly became very strange," Pete Mason, editor of the Oldham fanzine, *Beyond the Boundary*, said. "It got so that you knew the people who stood near you, but there was then all these new people. I would be selling the fanzine and I'd see people coming up who I'd seen around Oldham who I never knew were interested in football."

These nouveau supporters are recklessly ostentatious. They buy everything on sale at the club shop and parade their new love with shameless zeal. Inevitably, they know little of football's culture, or its etiquette. Most fail to appreciate that a football club is for life, not just a metaphorical Christmas. At Oldham, they were dubbed "Good time Charlies", while at Barnsley, they are known as "Johnny Come-Lateleys".

Barnsley had just 2,500 season ticket-holders last season and a further 5,000 regular supporters who could be considered true to the cause. The club has issued 17,000 season tickets this season, which means that the seat next to you at Oakwell is likely to be occupied by a Johnny with a double-barrelled surname.

So far, their loyalty has been absolute and their period of support has embraced a disheartening 6-0 home defeat against Chelsea. Unfortunately, the Oldham experience does not bode well. "I don't know whether Oldham people are just more fickle than most, but I remember people trying to sell their season ticket just a few months into the first season when we won promotion," Mason said.

JOHN ANGERSON / GUZELIAN

An Oakwell season ticket has suddenly acquired a new kudos and become one of the most-prized possessions in Barnsley

Oldham spent three seasons in the top division, the second two in the newly-inaugurated Premier League, but they were relegated in 1994 and last season were slipped down again to the second division of the Nationwide League. Supporters believe this rapid demotion was precipitated by the club's policy of selling its better players. "The place has gone down drastically. I suppose you could say that the rats soon left a sinking ship. I reckon we've kept a tiny proportion of those fans from a few years ago, maybe something like two per cent," Mason said.

Tony Bugby, of the *Oldham Evening Chronicle*, has seen their fall from grace from uncomfortably close quarters. "There used to be about 40 reporters at the ground on match days. There is probably just half a dozen of us now. Once a club goes into freefall, it is hard to see when it will stop," he said.

Barnsley, of course, feels unique in its delight. It does not want to find the ghost of its Premiership future on the other side of the Pennines. They are right to live for the moment, though an occasional glance at a certain Lancashire club might well be salutary. A life in football can easily go wonky, alas.

'The friend of flair now unwilling to take risks'

The coach now plotting England's downfall in Rome is likely to maintain a cautious approach

BRIAN GLANVILLE

The Italian is a resilient being. Knock him down and he comes back for more. That is why the outcome of England's World Cup match in Rome on October 11 is far from a foregone conclusion.

England need only to draw; Italy have to win to take the group and be sure of qualification. The pressure, as Glenn Hoddle correctly said after England had easily beaten Moldova, is now on the Italians, who stuttered in Georgia, but the decades in which Italy could never beat England are a remote memory and England have not overcome them since that remarkable victory in New York in 1976, when Ray Wilkins and company turned defeat into triumph.

Italy have risen from the ashes before, notably in the 1982 World Cup in Spain. Their three qualifying group performances were so dire that a fiery young Tuscan manager, Eugenio Fascetti, made a vicious public attack on Italy's long-suffering coach, Enzo Bearzot. Suddenly and surprisingly, Italy took wing in Barcelona. Paolo Rossi, just out of mothballs after a two-year suspension, scored six goals in three games and Italy beat West Germany in the final.

Cesare Maldini, the Italy coach, will remember all that very well and may draw solace from it. After all, he was No 2 to Bearzot. What he will not be able to do, as Bearzot did then, is to impose a period of what his predecessor called "disintoxication" — in other words, one in which he could clear his players' systems of what he saw as the poison of their domestic championship, which will be in full flow by October 11.

Maldini probably had a point when, before the Georgian anticlimax, he bewailed the fact that Serie A had scarcely begun, just as, before England beat Italy in the Tournoi de France, he complained that it was scarcely finished. Maldini has, inevitably, been subjected to bitter criticism after the draw in Tbilisi, above all for his supposedly negative and anxious attitude. Contrary to Italian practice, he did not announce his team until he gave it in the dressing-room.

Perhaps the most surprising thing is that Maldini — once the high priest of *catenaccio*, with its sweeper defence and man-marking, as opposed to the zonal defence of Arrigo Sacchi, his immediate predecessor — should now be embracing 4-4-2. It suggests how hard he was hit by England's win in France, a result that, psychologically at least, wiped out the effects of Italy's win at Wembley and put them on the back foot.

It was already highly likely that the team would go into the game in Rome with that result in France in the back of their minds. The fact that they have now slipped a point behind England will double their anxiety since, for all their skills, they tend to be oddly vulnerable in this way.

Their lack of recent success under Maldini will increase the burden. Seen in his native habitat, the Milanese restaurant *L'Assassino*, where he has eaten since he played for Milan, Maldini cuts a commanding if approachable figure: emphatically king of the long, top table. He exudes authority, but has never quite occupied the heights he does now.

He came in last year on the crest of a wave of relief and jubilation. Sacchi, the zonal man, the arch-priest of caution, a mistruster of brilliance, the nemesis of such as Roberto Baggio and Gianfranco Zola, was gone. Here came Maldini, the professional of professionals, once an Italy international himself (where Sacchi had hardly kicked a ball); the weathered and relaxed manager of a successful under-21 team, the friend of flair.

All that changed in France, just as Maldini's tactics did. He has been excoriated for the caution of his strategy in the first half in Tbilisi. A throw-back to the infinity of careful, negative Italian teams, unwilling, for all their talents, to take risks.

TONY GENTILE

Maldini, once the high priest of *catenaccio*, now embraces a different tactical approach

Against England, he and Italy will badly miss Roberto Di Matteo, whose two foolish fouls in quick succession earned him that second yellow card and had Maldini hopping in dismay on the touchline. Neither Conte nor Albertini has quite the graceful fluency of the Chelsea player, even though Conte has been getting goals for Juventus. But England, against such players as Baggio, Zola, Del Piero and probably Inzaghi — all capable, in the Italian phrase, of "inventing the game" — will have their own problems.

Paul Gascoigne comes into that category. His could be a poetic farewell to that Olympic Stadium, where the Lazio fans once adored him, but his sparkling performance against Moldova might cynically be seen as a superb piece of rabbit-killing. Italy will not give him that time, that space, although the return of Paul Ince will allow him some licence to express himself.

For whom, moreover, would Gazza make the bullets to fire? Les Ferdinand fired blanks at Wembley, Stan Collymore is still an international tyro. Oh for Alan Shearer, who could have made so much difference in Rome. No easy game to predict, then, but I still believe it will be a draw.

Former glories offer hope for Aberdeen

By Kevin McCarra

WHEN he was first with Aberdeen, Jim Leighton, the goalkeeper, must have been soothed by the sight of the red jerseys that protected him. Nowadays, his mood can hardly be so serene when he looks out at his defence. Much has changed since he left Pittodrie in 1988.

In Leighton's last season with Aberdeen, his team twice defeated Rangers in Glasgow. Over the nine years that have followed, the club has only been capable of adding two more victories at Ibrox to their total. This afternoon, Aberdeen travel to face the champions once again and do not seem equipped for the task.

Roy Aitken, the manager, is exasperated with the frequency of reports that Aberdeen have won only two games in the Bell's Scottish League premier division since December of last year. It would be easier to suppress memories of last season, however, if his team had made a better start to this one.

They are yet to win a game and, with two points, find themselves ninth in the table. A kindly interpretation of events would state that the many signings made in the summer, with Leighton among them, have still to settle. Some support for the argument comes from the fact that Aberdeen have reached the semi-final of the Coca-Cola Cup.

So far in that tournament, they have only faced clubs from the lower division, but Aberdeen were drawn away on each occasion and might have been expected to encounter troubles. Making an impression at Ibrox, however, would do rather more for their reputation. This may be as reasonable moment as any to be facing Rangers.

Walter Smith's team were knocked out of the Coca-Cola Cup by Dundee United on Tuesday and although a few internationals who were then absent, while playing for their countries, have now returned, there is still a feeling that Rangers are slightly uncomfortable at present. Their unease will grow if Andy Goram is unavailable.

Suffering from a groin strain, the goalkeeper is unlikely to face Aberdeen and his deputy, Antti Niemi, is also unavailable, having injured a finger during Finland's World Cup qualifying match on Wednesday. The position is liable to be occupied by Theo Snelders. His career, and that of Leighton, suggests that only the place of employment changes in Scottish football, while the names remain unaltered.

Yesterday, however, brought one new arrival. After months of intermittent negotiation, Celtic have bought the Denmark central defender, Marc Rieper, from West Ham United, for £1.5 million. Although Rieper, 29, is not eligible for the Uefa Cup-tie with Liverpool, he is expected to make his debut at Motherwell this afternoon.

He is the seventh player to have been purchased by Celtic since the appointment, in July, of Wim Jansen as head coach. The team is beginning to take shape, but, with Jorge Cadete sold and Darren Jackson recuperating from brain surgery, has found it difficult to take chances in front of goal. It is a failing Celtic cannot afford to repeat against Motherwell at Fir Park this afternoon.

Yesterday, however, the club's fortunes did take a turn for the better. They will receive a rental fee for Scotland's final World Cup qualifying match, against Latvia on October 11, since it has now been relocated from Easter Road to Celtic Park. Victory would almost certainly ensure Scotland's place at the finals and the Edinburgh ground, with a capacity of 16,000, is too small to meet public demand.

Scotland last played at Celtic Park in April when they defeated Austria, the group leaders, 2-0. Paul Lambert, the Borussia Dortmund midfield player, who was outstanding in that victory, said: "This is the biggest game that Scotland have played for many years. Everyone wants to see it. I'm sure the place will be electric, as it was against Austria."

Robson serves new Brazilian blend

By Russell Kempson

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

CYNICAL supporters of Middlesbrough might consider that one member of the Emerson family in their side is one too many . . . but two of them? They will be able to judge more accurately in the Nationwide League first division match against Bradford City this afternoon when Fabio, the cousin of Emerson, makes his debut.

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough player-manager, signed Fabio last year when Emerson was experiencing one of his all-too-regular bouts of homesickness. Robson had hoped that it would cure Emerson of his pining for the beaches of Brazil and help him to settle in the North East.

It appears to have had the desired effect, with Emerson now apparently integrated into the Teesside way of life, but Fabio has been unable to break into the first team. With 13 players either ill, injured or suspended, however, Robson's choice is limited. Emerson Mk II, thus, gets his chance.

Fabrizio Ravanelli, not surprisingly, is unlikely to be playing alongside him. Although Robson gave his Italy striker permission to return home last week, he failed to reappear, as agreed, for training yesterday. "I will answer no questions on Ravanelli," Robson said, not for the first time leaving the club's fans in the dark as to what was happening with the player.

Wolverhampton Wanderers, who play Charlton Athletic at Molineux today, have completed the signing of Jason Roberts, 19, the Hayes forward, for £250,000. Roberts is the nephew of Cyrille Regis, the former England and West Bromwich Albion striker, who also started his career with Hayes.

Notts County, the third division club, has escaped with a warning after an incident during the league game against Lincoln City at Meadow Lane last month, when Phil Richards, the referee, was allegedly assaulted by a spectator who ran on to the pitch. The Football Association has notified County that, after carrying out an inquiry, it has decided not to take any further action.

West Ham looking to regroup

WEST Ham United are on the hunt for reinforcements after the departure of Marc Rieper to Celtic yesterday. Rieper's £1.5 million move, together with Slaven Bilic's transfer to Everton and injuries to Richard Hall and Julian Dicks, have left the club short of defensive cover (Matt Dickinson writes).

Ian Pearce does not appear to be one of the possible recruits after Blackburn Rovers' valuation of £3 million, an asking price that is also likely to prohibit any move to Crystal Palace.

Steve Bould, Arsenal's 34-year-old centre half, is likely to move to Upton Park on a free transfer, but the Highbury club is reluctant to sanction the transfer until Tony Adams has returned to full fitness, particularly with the Uefa Cup match against Salonika looming next week.

Gordon Strachan, the Coventry City manager, paid tribute to Steve Ogrizovic yesterday on the goalkeeper's fortieth birthday.

Ogrizovic, who broke the club's appearance record when he turned out for the 538th time last season, lines up against Southampton today. "All I can say is that my admiration for Steve grows every week," Strachan said.

RACING 42-43
Godolphin stable seeks to end Flat season on a high

SPORT

GOLF 45
Spectators watch the birdies as Norman moves into contention

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13 1997

Wenger calls for radical changes

By Oliver Holt, football correspondent

AS THE fractured football season prepared last night for its third restart in the five weeks since the new campaign began, Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal coach, voiced his frustration at the increasing dislocation international football is causing domestic competition and called for a radical restructuring of qualifying tournaments.

Wenger, whose team take on Bolton Wanderers at Highbury this afternoon, articulated the dissatisfaction felt by the majority of supporters over the way the season has been disrupted. He complained that it was impossible to get any feeling for the shape of the new FA Carling Premiership when some teams, like his own, had played five games and Newcastle United had only played two.

The Frenchman also criticised the spread of dates used by national teams to play their matches with the result that some compete on a Saturday, some the following Wednesday. He said that all countries should be made to play their qualifying matches for competitions such as the World Cup and the European championship on the same night.

Fear of flying I
Beckham's rise ... Magazine

International dates have already wiped out two Premiership Saturdays, even though England were not involved on one of those occasions. Another round of domestic matches will go by the board on October 11 to accommodate England's match with Italy, Scotland's with Latvia and a host of others. Yet another blank Premiership Saturday is due on November 15 because of the possibility that national teams could be involved in World Cup play-offs.

"We have got six games in two weeks coming up now," Wenger said, "and then another two weeks off. It is ridiculous. Because of the disparity in the number of games everyone has played, for the first time I cannot really judge what the Premiership is like.

"I think England should only cancel their Premiership games when England play. After all, Scotland is independent now, isn't it? Fifa has to harmonise all the fixtures in Europe so that everybody plays on the same day. Maybe games could be bunched together more, too, so that England play on a Saturday and then a Wednesday like some other countries.

"This is what they have to try to do at international level because it is not normal that you stop for two weeks because of a match against Moldova. I am not a specialist on fixtures — I am just giving an opinion."

Wenger, who was speaking at Arsenal's team hotel near St Albans, also suggested that qualifying competitions for international tournaments should follow the model recently established by European club tournaments, where the less accomplished sides have to play qualifying rounds before they are allowed to join the bigger clubs, thus reducing the number of group matches that the leading teams have to play.

"I personally have a problem watching games like Germany against Armenia," Wenger said. "After the first five minutes, I am waiting for Germany to score the first goal. For me, that is not what the international level should be.

"England played very well against Moldova but Moldova are not really an international side. Sooner or later, the authorities are going to have to create a different or a lower level to reduce the number of matches that everyone plays."

Chelsea will have one eye on the Continent before they meet Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park where there will be a gathering of smarting Italians after the sudden change of fortunes in England's World Cup qualification group.

Wenger warned that unless some sort of reforms were initiated, Fifa would face a rebellion from the leading European clubs, who pay extortionate salaries to their leading players and then have to watch as they go absent on international duty for large swaths of the season.

He cited the example of Ronaldo, the Brazil forward signed by Internazionale for around £20 million. "I see that Inter have to release him for seven matches this season," Wenger said. "They are all friendlies for Brazil. But say he misses a couple of games through injury and two more through suspension, suddenly he is only playing 20 games and there are only 34 matches in the Serie A season.

"At the end of a season, people look at how many points you have got and what position you finished in the table. They do not ask whether you had all your best players available."

Wenger devoted the rest of his press conference yesterday, though, to heaping praise on his forwards, Ian Wright and Dennis Bergkamp, who between them have scored eight of Arsenal's nine goals this season. Both scored for their countries in midweek too.

British No 1 climbs into world's top ten

Rusedski drives a backhand on his way to victory over Arnold yesterday and a top-ten world ranking. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird/Allsport

Rusedski soars to record heights

By Alix Ramsay

ANOTHER day, another $18,400 (around £11,500), but most valuable of all to Greg Rusedski was the knowledge that, whatever the outcome of the quarter-final at the Samsung Open in Bournemouth yesterday, he would break into the world's top ten tennis players when the new rankings are issued on Monday. It will mark Rusedski down as the first British man to achieve such a ranking in the game. Just to underline the point, Rusedski beat Lucas Arnold in straight sets to reach the semi-finals.

The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour rankings system is not known for its simplicity and, earlier in the week, it had appeared that Rusedski would have to reach the final here to achieve a top-ten place. That, however, overlooked the small matter of Thomas Muster.

This time last year, Muster won a title in Bogota: this year there is no tournament in Bogota and he is not playing anywhere else, so he will lose all the points that he amassed there. As a result, the Austrian will drop out of the top ten next Monday and Rusedski will move up. It sounds simple, but it has taken those who are supposed to know the best part of two days to work out.

It is the highest ranking for a British man since Roger Taylor climbed to No 11 in September 1973. Rusedski was delighted to have made the breakthrough, but no one told him before his quarter-final in case it interrupted his preparations. "I didn't know, but I had a sneaking suspicion that it could happen," he said. "And if it didn't happen on Monday it would happen in two weeks, anyway. But it was nice that it happened here in Bournemouth and nice that it happened on the clay courts. God, I'm a clay-courter now."

The news also filtered through to Tashkent, in Uzbekistan, where Tim Henman reached the semi-finals of their tournament with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Vince Spadea.

BEST OF BRITISH

Britain's top players since world rankings began in 1973

Date	Player	Rank
Sep 1997	Greg Rusedski	10
Sep 1973	Roger Taylor	11
Jan 1997	Tim Henman	14
Jul 1977	Mark Cox	14
Feb 1983	Buster Mottram	15
Jul 1978	John Lloyd	21

"It's a hell of an effort from Greg," Henman said. "It's great, but it's not a great surprise the way he's been playing. He deserves it. To have two British men in the top 20 is not bad, but I need to start pulling my socks up now. That's what I'm doing out here this week."

Not that Rusedski is letting all the applause go to his head. His eyes are firmly set on an even higher ranking. "No British player has been ranked so high and it's special to say I was the first to get into the top ten," he said.

"But I want to compete and get to the top. Fred Perry was the greatest player there ever was and, when you look at what he achieved, I don't think anyone will ever be able to repeat that. So I want to compare myself and model myself on that rather than just think about being in the top ten."

Against Arnold yesterday, Rusedski was looking a little more rested than he had earlier this week and, opening his account with an ace, the first of 11, he was considerably sharper. Coming from Buenos Aires, Arnold is used to the slow pace of the clay courts and he gave Rusedski few chances in the first set. As the set moved to the inevitable tie-break, though, he must have known that his days were numbered — Rusedski seems unbeatable in such situations at present. So it proved.

After a tough battle to break the Arnold service in the fifth game of the next set, Rusedski finally got his reward on the fifth break point and did not look back. He won 7-6, 6-3 and plays Carlos Moya, the top seed, today. Not that Moya thinks that Rusedski should prove too tough an opponent.

"I don't mind predictions like that," Rusedski said. "Everyone said I'd lose in the first round at Flushing Meadows and that all worked out quite nicely for me. I've got a great opportunity this week to impove my ranking further. It just keeps me motivated. If I can keep going and try my best in every match, my ranking will get better."

The latest information on the rankings suggested that, should Rusedski beat Moya, the world No 5, and so reach the final here, he could climb to No 6 on Monday. Rusedski, though, sensible chap that he is, will not believe it until the rankings come out.

Boost for Henman

TIM HENMAN'S place in his fifth semi-final of the year, the President's Cup in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is unlikely to shift him from his position at No 20 in the world rankings.

Henman, the No 2 seed, has, however, enjoyed an encouraging tournament and will follow up his victory over Vince Spadea, of the United States, with a semi-final against Francisco Clavet, of Spain, the No 6 seed. Clavet thrashed Javier Sanchez, his fellow countryman, 6-1, 6-2.

The other semi-final will pit Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia, the No 1 seed, who beat Andrei Stoliarov, a qualifier, also from Russia, 6-4, 6-4, against Marc Rosset, of Switzerland. Rosset beat the unseeded Hicham Arazi, of Morocco, 6-2, 6-4.

Rosset, who relies on a formidable service, said he was not happy with his all-round play this week but would go in to his semi-final today with his confidence lifted by a career record against the Russian that stands at 6-1 in his favour.

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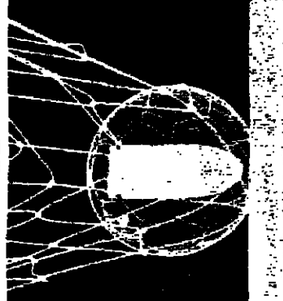

Match-by-match guide to the Premiership

Under the skin of sport

Lewis's last lap slips into realms of farce

Michael Calvin finds a once-great athlete bent on destroying images of his heyday

Lewis, unlike Wisdom, has become decidedly unfunny as he attempts "physical comedy"

Joe Louis became a curiosity item in a wheelchair, greeting guests at a casino in Las Vegas. Pelé entered politics and John McEnroe grew the goatee that symbolised his arrival as an art dealer in New York. Carl Lewis has aimed somewhere in between and decided that his future lies as America's answer to Norman Wisdom.

Lewis is already closer in spirit to Michael Jackson than Michael Johnson, whom he accused, in a memorable exchange between pot and kettle, of turning track and field into an "ego-fest". He is arguably the world's greatest all-round athlete and certainly his sport's most blatant self-publicist.

Want a sprinter in high heels? Carl's your man. Need an androgynous model for the summer catalogue? Lewis will oblige. Speeches, sincere or saccharin-sweet, according to taste, are a speciality. He has retired more often than Linford Christie and with even less grace than Diego Maradona. This season, which he has billed as "one long and pleasant victory lap", has been an insult to a legend embellished by nine Olympic titles.

He has willingly succumbed to the attrition of the ageing process by running in development races, posing in dream-team relays and pottering around Europe with the distracted air of a backpacker. He finally abandoned the pretence of legitimacy in Tokyo last weekend when, wearing what appeared to be a tea towel over his newly-dreadlocked hair, he was deliberately beaten in a 100 metres against Japanese high-school students.

He makes positively his last appearance as a professional athlete today, as part of the half-time entertainment in a University of Houston football game. He will be more colourfully dressed than the cheerleaders and invoke the all-American virtues of mom, apple pie and weak beer with greater intensity than the coaches. His tendency to milk public acclaim suggests that he might have to be forcibly removed from the field by one of those steroidal linebackers who communicate in grunts.

Far better, surely, to remember him through the personalised freeze-frame images that are the calling cards of greatness. Think of him as the ghost of Jesse Owens in Los Angeles in 1984, or as the symbol of vengeance, who inherited the gold medal fraudulently won by Ben Johnson in Seoul four years later. The long jump was his salvation in Barcelona and Atlanta, where he turned a crowded winner's press conference into another acting class by asking the assorted hacks, with mock alarm: "Hey, what are you guys doing in my dream?"

We were living it with him, and loving it. His soundbites were as smooth as his stride pattern. He courted publicity, but remained aloof. He was everyone's acquaintance, but no one's close friend. He was a global figure, who yearned for recognition in his own country. The central inconsistencies of his life were obvious, but routinely overlooked.

Retirement is the final frontier for any sporting icon and Lewis, at 36, is rushing towards his midlife crisis. "I am a restless soul," he said. "I know I will have to stay busy so I don't fall into the trap of getting nostalgic about the glory days." His plan, to concentrate on what he calls "physical comedy", is fraught with potential humiliation, but doubts are met with a shrug.

"If it works, great," he said. "If not, I know I can fall back on other things." He intends to promote a book every Olympic year until he reaches 50 and is to produce fitness videos for the Beatles Generation. He is to launch a range of formal wear and act as a salesman for the ubiquitous Nike swoosh. When the price is right, he will peddle everything from exercise bikes to hair gel.

Eat your heart out, Mr Grimsdale.

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